

BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MAY, 1992

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 5

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Donnelly

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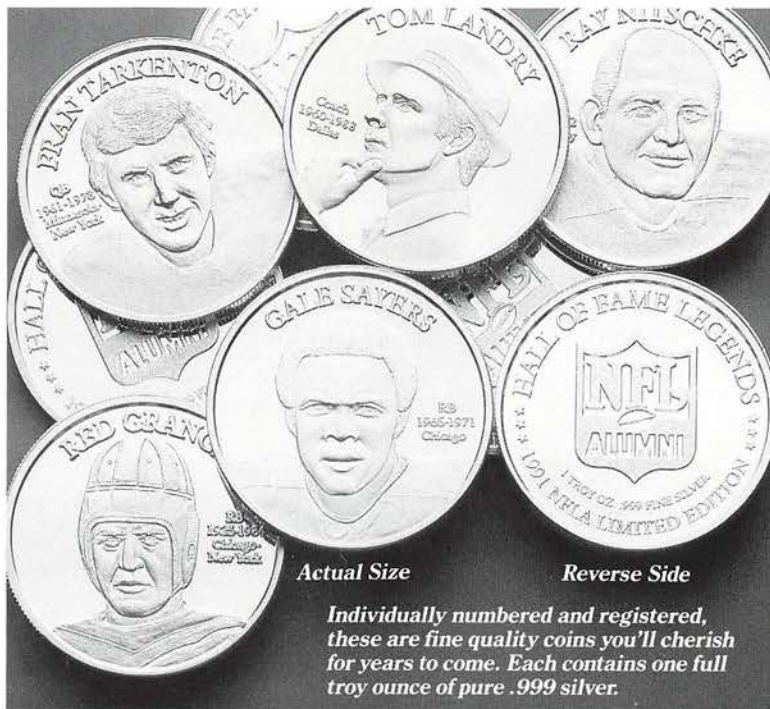
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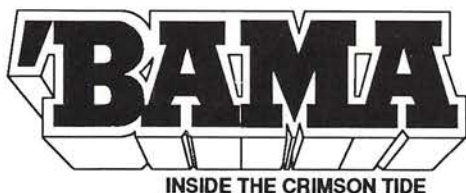
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Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Artist: Dan Proctor
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Publisher's Assistant: Vera Dowdle
Promotions Director: Mort Jordan

Contributing Writers: Barry Allen, John Barnes, Al Browning, Barbara Butler, Jimmie Cummings, Tommy Deas, David S. DeWitt, Brad Edwards, Rush Garner, Bruce Graham, Michael Herndon, Becky Hopf, Donald F. Staffo, Rob Woodruff

Contributing Photographers: Wade Collins, Kent Gidley, Paul Hultberg, Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama
Computer Consultant: Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

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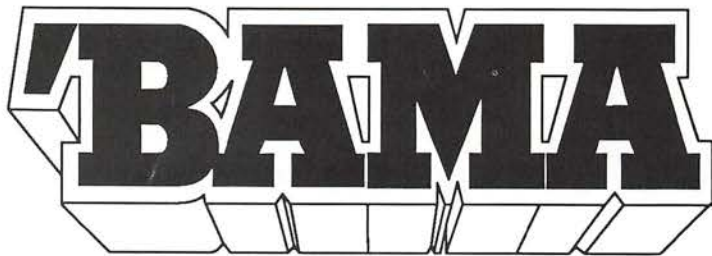
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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On The Cover: Chris Donnelly was an all-star safety at Vanderbilt in 1989-90. Now he's expected to be Alabama's starting safety and Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings says he has the potential to be "a good player." See Page 16.

Barry Fikes Photo



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Spring Football: A Reason For Optimism

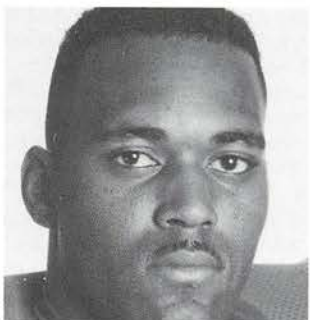
Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings elected to stress individual improvement of Tide players in a tough spring training. The result appears to be a much-improved team, pretty good reason to be optimistic following an 11-1 season.

by Kirk McNair

Tony Johnson: Redshirt Freshman Has High Goals

Tony Johnson was one of the nation's top-rated high school players when he picked Alabama. He wanted a chance to win championships. He was redshirted last fall, a decision that has proved beneficial as he is bigger and stronger and a better blocker.

by Donald F. Staffo



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James Gregory: Off Season A Key To Success

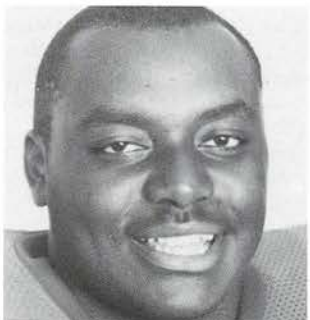
Junior nose tackle James Gregory has been a backup man to all-star Robert Stewart the past two years. Now he's the leader to be Alabama's starter in the middle of the defensive line, but he'll have to report back in good shape in the fall.

by Rush Garner

Chris Donnelly: He's Found The Right Atmosphere

Chris Donnelly has already proved himself as a Southeastern Conference player, but hasn't played a down for the Crimson Tide. However, the transfer from Vanderbilt finished spring training as Bama's number one free safety. He likes playing at Alabama.

by Kirk McNair



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Butch Hobson: Alabama Plays A Part In His Life

Former Alabama football player and baseball star Butch Hobson heeded the counsel of former Alabama Head Football Coach Paul Bryant when he selected baseball over football. Now he's in his first season as manager of the Boston Red Sox.

by John C. Hinds, Jr.

Signees Update: A Few More Join The Tide

Recruiting is the lifeblood of college athletics. The spring signing period is under way and already there are some successes, help for the future for the Crimson Tide.

by Tommy Deas

Where Are They Now: Tide Stars Of The Past Remember

Among many other positive things, the A-Day Game included the return to campus of some 500 former Alabama football lettermen to celebrate the beginning of the "Century of Champions." Here are some of their memories.

by John Barnes



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Alabama tennis star Cecil Brandon has had great success in the classroom and on the playing fields. He was late starting at tennis, but has star quality.

by Becky Hopf

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A Reason For Optimism

by Kirk McNair

Tide football team made obvious improvement in tough spring practice

The person who knows more than anyone about Alabama's football team thinks the Crimson Tide is still a year away from being the kind of football team all who follow Bama want. That person is Head Coach Gene Stallings and that type team is a national championship squad. But that doesn't mean 1992 isn't going to be pretty good.

Spring training isn't what it used to be. Once upon a time it was 20 days of full contact, no time limit, torture. Players counted down the days, tried to survive. Now there are five practices in shorts, technically 10 days of full contact; but one of those contact days is the spring game, not much of a practice since, (a.) a football team is not going to exhibit its offensive and defensive schemes in a spring game and (b.) for most of the players the day amounts to only a handful of scrimmage plays.

Nevertheless, the nine contact practices of the spring did provide a preview of some things to expect, and those things are mostly good.

There are those who think that football has changed so much in recent years that the adage, "You win with defense and kicking," is now only one of lip service. But look at Alabama's 1991 season, an 11-1 record built primarily on the strength of defense and the kicking game (not, specifically, the kicking of the football).

Alabama lost five starters off that starting defensive unit. However, the half returning and the men moving up and into starting roles showed in the spring they can get the job done. Many close observers believe Alabama will be even better than last year on defense.

At the point of attack—the defensive line—there is not only quality, but an almost-unheard-of quantity. After years of watching the Alabama defensive line coach take perhaps a half dozen players through their drills, it was startling to see Mike Dubose working with a baker's dozen. And some of those players are already stars, some future stars, all of them competent. It is a measure of Alabama defensive line depth that a young man like Bryan Thornton (6-7, 280) will probably



Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings had to like what he saw through most of spring training as the Crimson Tide accomplished its goals of finding backup quarterbacks and centers, developing an offensive line and improving the kicking game.

Barry Fikes Photo

be third team, getting playing time and experience at end, but not counted on as a redshirt freshman. In years past he probably would have been thrown to the wolves. Instead he'll be behind preseason All-Southeastern Conference performer senior John Copeland (6-3, 265) and junior Jeremy Nunley (6-5, 250), who was not only the outstanding lineman, but the outstanding player, as voted by the press in the A-Day Game. At the other end is another all-star candidate, senior Eric Curry (6-7, 255), and he's backed by an upcoming star, sophomore Damiean Jeffries (6-4, 260).

Junior James Gregory (see Page 14) is ahead of two talented Browns, sophomore Elverett (6-4, 260) and redshirt freshman Shannon (6-5, 265) in trying to fill one of the key replacement spots in the defensive line, the nose tackle spot vacated by Robert Stewart. Filling out the defensive line spots are Jason Milner (6-4, 260),

who was unable to play (but able to practice) last fall for academic reasons, and walkon senior John Phillips (6-1, 265). The jury is still out on sophomore Chuck Aaron (6-4, 280), who has never played a down owing to a severe ankle injury suffered in an automobile accident in 1990.

Although Alabama is technically an odd man front defensive team, the outside linebacker is sometimes on the line of scrimmage, making an even front. Ordinarily that linebacker is the left linebacker, the position manned the past few years by Steve Webb. Bama wants its larger/stronger outside linebackers on the left side, the reason senior Antonio London (6-3, 230) has moved from the right to the left. André Royal (6-1, 225), a sophomore letterman who was dismissed from the squad for spring drills, is expected back this fall and could be a factor at that position. Redshirt freshman Vann Bodden (6-4, 235) made a great deal of improvement in the spring at linebacker, as did junior walkon Myron Pope (6-3, 220), a former tight end.

Bama has developed an interesting concept at the other outside linebacker spot. The top two players are former defensive backs. Junior Lemanski Hall (6-1, 220) made the shift last year and by the end of the season was an accomplished performer. This spring the Tide decided to expand the experiment, shifting hard-hitting safety Will Brown (6-1, 210 and growing) to the backup spot behind Hall. Senior Chris Cochran (6-4, 228), who has played several positions, and sophomore DeLan Trimble (6-1, 230) are backups. Sophomore walkon Thad Turnipseed (6-0, 200) was also in the picture but suffered a knee injury in the A-Day Game.

The inside linebacker position suffers the same weakness as outside: not much proven depth. Senior Derrick Oden (6-0, 225) is a quality player, a two-year regular. Michael Rogers had a very good spring and will go into the fall as an easy number one at the other inside linebacker position, replacing the graduated John Sullins. Two young players, sophomore Mario Morris (6-0, 220) and redshirt freshman Jeff Torrence (6-1, 215) frequently drew positive comments from Stallings and will be top backups. Morris also had a good 1991 spring, but reported back out of condition. He further jeopardized his career by being suspended from the team just prior to the Blockbuster Bowl, but is now in good standing. The big plus for Bama might be junior Victor Lockett (6-0, 243). Lockett had a surprisingly good spring, showed great improvement towards the end, and could be a bonus for the Tide at inside linebacker. One of Bama's toughest walkons, sophomore Jeff Foshee (5-9,



Senior George Teague (13) has been a big play performer for Alabama as a cornerback and safety. This year he will move to strong safety in a Crimson Tide secondary that should be among the nation's best. Tide defensive backs had a tough workout in the spring, going against the likes of sophomore split end Curt Brown.

Barry Fikes Photo

204), will play if hard work can get it done.

There is a report that *Lindy's* college football magazines will name Alabama's 1992 secondary as the nation's best. While Tide defensive backfield coach Bill Oliver would prefer more players, the talent, if not the depth, does appear to be excellent. Start with two returning starters on the team that led the SEC in interceptions with 20 last year. Ranking first in the league was safety George Teague, an upcoming senior, with six. Ranking second was junior Antonio Langham with five. (And they are more than pass coverage men. Teague was 1991 winner of the Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award in spring training and Langham was this year's winner.)

Throw a couple of newcomers into the mix to produce an outstanding first line secondary. Sam Shade, who saw most of his action on special teams last year as a true freshman, but who also was a regular in Bama's nickel package against teams facing passing situations, is an outstanding prospect. He can play either strong safety

or cornerback and ended the spring as number one right corner. Also new for Bama in 1992 will be an experienced defensive back, junior Chris Donnelly (see page 16), a transfer from Vanderbilt. The arrival of Donnelly has enabled Bama to move Teague from free safety to the strong safety spot vacated by Stacy Harrison. (And Teague also keeps his hand in at cornerback, where he previously played.)

Tommy Johnson, who also lettered as a true freshman last year, is backing up Shade. The other top backups in the secondary are nonscholarshipped players—sophomore Mickey Conn at left cornerback, sophomore Danny Davis (converted from quarterback) at strong safety, and junior Alex Jordan at safety. One surprise in the defensive backfield is Jeff Wall, an upcoming senior whose sole responsibility in the past has been to hold for extra points and field goals.

Oliver, considered by many to be Alabama's defensive coordinator even though he doesn't have the title, said it was a very good spring. "What was proba-

bly the most impressive thing was the carry-over," he said. "We inserted quite a bit of stuff and they have done a tremendous job of picking up where they left off last year and putting those things to good use."

Alabama did not spend a great deal of time on the overall kicking game in the spring. However, it stands to reason that punt returns will be adequate with David Palmer, the nation's best last year, returning. And the Tide has a handful of capable kickoff return men. Overall team speed continues to be good, which means coverage of kicks should be good.

There are also returnees to snap (Matthew Pine on long snaps, Johnny Howard, who missed spring work because of knee surgery, on the short ones) and Wall returns to hold on extra points and field goals. Tide opponents will also continue to worry about Alabama kick blocking with Antonio London returning.

Most spring work on the kicking game involves the actual kicking of the football, and it was a positive spring. While most

have just penciled in incoming freshman Michael Proctor as the placekicker for 1992, sophomore Matt Wethington showed in the spring he's not giving up the job he earned last fall without a fight. And senior Hamp Greene and junior Jim Tuley also did well in the spring.

The Tide lost punter Tank Williamson to graduation, but three returnees punted the ball well in spring drills. Although he needs to work at getting his kicks away a split second quicker, sophomore Bryne Diehl shows a great deal of promise. Another

sophomore, J.J. Adams, is not consistent, but when he hits it it is impressive. And junior Stan Moss also had a strong spring.

Stallings said he felt that Alabama had improved its kicking in the spring.

If there was one aspect of spring training that had to be singled out, it would be quarterback performance. A year ago the quarterback position was unresolved. Senior Danny Woodson and redshirt freshman Jay Barker had gone back and forth, in part because of injuries, and the Tide

did not have a clear leader going into fall work. Barker took over the position for the final three regular season games, then had a brilliant second half of the Blockbuster Bowl, and with his four victories as starting quarterback under his belt, went into spring training a clear number one. No one could have predicted he would improve as much from that Blockbuster Bowl game as he has. He is a confident, capable quarterback. And behind him are a pair of redshirt freshmen who are both farther along at this time than either Woodson or Barker was a year ago. Brian Burgdorf, now completely recovered from a shoulder injury that limited him in the fall, and Chad Key are both young men Stallings would not hesitate to put in a game.

(And, of course, there's always the possibility of the talented deuce, David Palmer, running a few plays from the quarterback spot.)

Quarterback is the most important and most visible position on a football team. However, it is also a position in which the player often gets more credit or more blame than is his due, because his success depends in great part on those who surround him. It is quite likely that part of Alabama's impressive quarterback execution in the spring relates to improvement in other areas, notably the offensive line.

Stallings has said it is his goal that Alabama be more effective in the passing game. With quarterback improvement, that's a lot of the battle. Another factor in passing success is the receiving corps, and the Tide has what should be one of the nation's best.

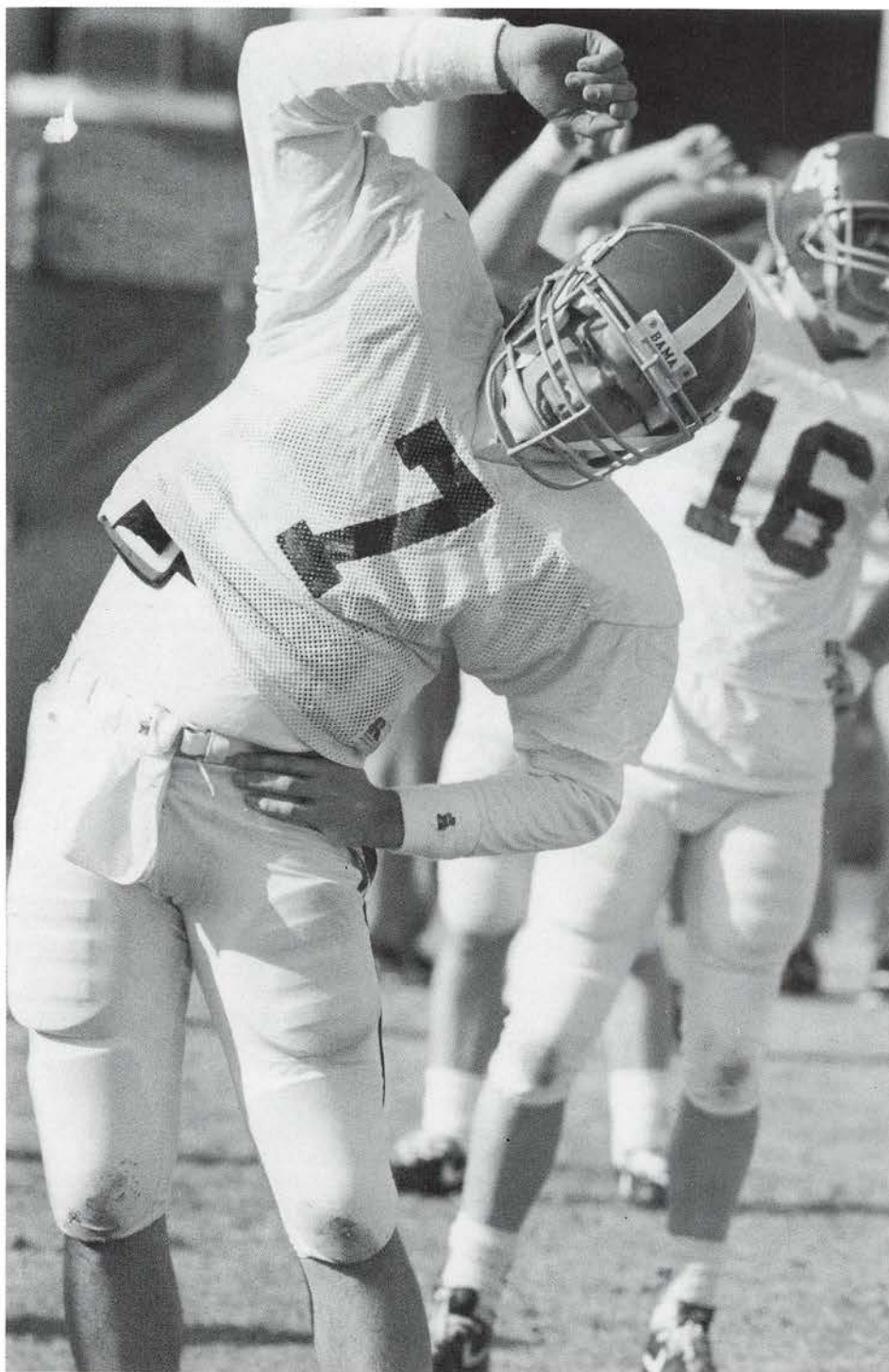
The returning starters from last year, senior flanker Prince Wimbley and junior split end Kevin Lee, both return and both had very good springs. However, sophomore backups David Palmer at flanker and Curtis Brown at split end had outstanding spring drills. Throw soph Rick Brown in that group and you have five legitimate first team wide receivers. Another half dozen squadmen make the two wideout spots one of Bama's deepest, as well as one of its best.

There are not as many tight ends around. However, senior Steve Busky (6-6, 233) has made great strides over the past few years and is now a capable pass receiver, as well as a very good blocker. The Tide should get a big boost at tight end from redshirt freshman Tony Johnson (see page 12). In fact, a couple of walk-on snappers, Matthew Pine and Jared

Alabama quarterback Jay Barker gained a lot of confidence as he took over the team for the final four games of 1991 as a redshirt freshman. He is a much-improved player as he heads into his sophomore season.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MAY '92



Watson, were worked at tight end in the spring.

While Alabama plans to be less predictable in 1992, the running game is still the bread and butter of the offense. The Tide's leading rushers last year, Siran Stacy and Kevin Turner, have graduated, but fullback and tailback are not areas of concern for Stallings after watching spring practice. The Tide is three deep at both positions.

At tailback, hard-running senior Derrick Lassic will go into the fall as a solid number one. Sophomore Sherman Williams has exceptional talent and many expected him to push Lassic in the spring. However, Chris Anderson, pressed into starting duty as a freshman two years ago, then little-used last year, was one of the major surprises of spring training. He not only forged ahead of Williams, but pushed Lassic. Anderson is up to nearly 190 pounds now, making him less susceptible to minor contact tackles that plagued him as a 155-pound freshman.

Senior Martin Houston (5-10, 235), who has been a regular behind Turner at fullback the past three years, missed much of the spring, first with a turned ankle, then with chicken pox, contracted from his child. Still, he will probably be number one when fall drills begin, in great part because of his blocking ability. However, Houston's absence gave two other men, both former tailbacks, plenty of work in the spring, and they responded very well to the opportunity. Sophomore Tarrant Lynch, now up to about 220 pounds, and 205-pound senior Irving Spikes (who is still getting some work at tailback, too) are capable of exploding on big runs from the fullback position.

Alabama coaches were delighted with the progress of the offensive line in the spring. Last year it was believed that offensive line inefficiency was responsible for Bama's offensive difficulties. Some predicted all new starters for 1992. That will not be the case. The year of experience Bama linemen got last year, along with a good off season program, and coupled with greater depth, has made the offensive line a good one. "It makes a big difference," Stallings said of the depth situation. "We have everybody back and we only lose one next year, so we are getting to the point where we need to be. It's a good situation."

At center, junior Tobie Sheils (6-2, 255) increased his weight from only 238 last year and had a very good spring. Sheils is a very intelligent player, a key to the center position. One concern of Stallings going into the spring was to find a backup center, and two emerged. Redshirt freshman Tim Barnett (6-5, 275), a former tight end, has picked up on the center responsibilities and could be a star of the future. And sophomore Chad Gladden (6-3, 255) made great strides, particularly in the latter part of drills, and he'll probably see

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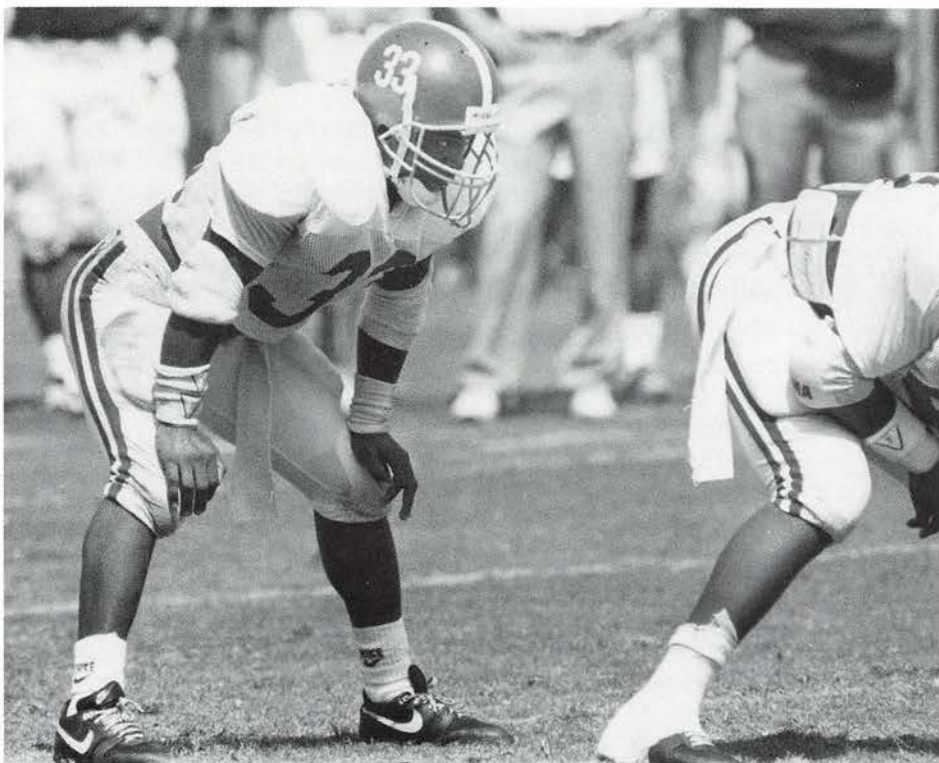
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Although he may not be considered a likely candidate to start, as he did as a true freshman in 1990, junior Chris Anderson should be back in the playing rotation this year after an impressive spring.

Barry Fikes Photos

significant playing time either at center or guard.

Left guard George Wilson (6-2, 265 and the only senior) was Bama's top offensive lineman in the spring. He's backed by junior John Clay (6-2, 265). Jon Stevenson (6-2, 286) was a starter at tackle last year as a true freshman, but is back at his natural guard position on the right side. That pushed 1991 starter junior William Barger (6-3, 280) to second team.

The number one tackles going into the fall will be juniors, two-year starter Matt Hammond (6-3, 265) on the left and

Roosevelt Patterson (6-4, 290) on the right. Patterson, who split playing time with Stevenson at tackle last fall, is particularly good on run blocking. Although the backup tackles don't have a great deal of experience, all have great potential. Vying for playing time will be sophomores Joey Harville (6-5, 280) and Napoleon Folks (6-3, 290) and redshirt freshmen Kareem McNeal (6-5, 290) and Doug Segrest (6-5, 270).

"I think it's going to be a fun year," Stallings said of the 1992 season. "Our team is ready to accept the responsibility."

1992 Coaches' Spring Training Awards

Lee Roy Jordan Headhunter Award: Sophomore cornerback Antonio Langham

Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice Award: senior running back Irving Spikes

Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Lineman Award: junior nose tackle James Gregory

Bobby Johns Most Improved Defensive Back Award: sophomore cornerback/strong safety Sam Shade

Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman Award: freshman center Tim Barnett

Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver Award: sophomore split end Curtis Brown

Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award: junior tailback Chris Anderson

Woodrow Lowe Most Improved Linebacker Award: junior outside linebacker Lemanski Hall

Sylvester Croom Commitment To Excellence Award: sophomore quarterback Jay Barker

Ozzie Newsome Most Improved Freshman Award: tight end Tony Johnson

Coach "Bear" Bryant Best Walk-On Award: freshman quarterback Chad Key

Lifter of the Year: senior offensive guard George Wilson

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RUNNINGBACK BOBBY MARLOW

RUNNINGBACK JOHNNY MUSSO

RUNNINGBACK BOBBY HUMPHREY

PLACEKICKER VAN TIFFIN

DEFENSE

LINEMAN BOB BAUMHOWER

LINEMAN MARTY LYONS

LINEMAN JON HAND

LINEBACKER LEE ROY JORDAN

LINEBACKER BARRY KRAUSS

LINEBACKER CORNELIUS BENNETT

LINEBACKER DERRICK THOMAS

SECONDARY HARRY GILMER

SECONDARY DON MCNEAL

SECONDARY JEREMIAH CASTILLE

SECONDARY TOMMY WILCOX

PUNTER JOHNNY CAIN



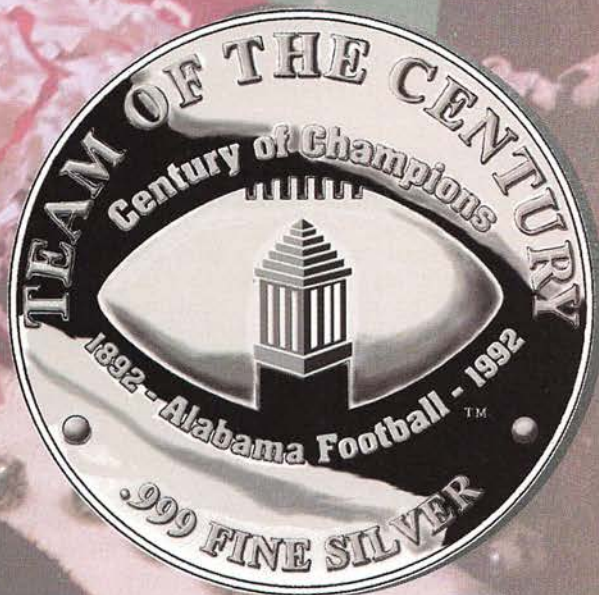
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Redshirt Freshman Has High Goals

by Donald F. Staffo

Tide tight end is doing the things he has to do as a blocker in order to star

Tony Johnson has big dreams, but unlike a lot of dreamers, he is willing to do whatever it takes to make those dreams come true. He is also a realist in that he knows he is currently a long way from reaching his dreams. But he's patient enough to wait his turn, confident enough to state publicly his very high expectations for himself, and dedicated enough to pay the price to get where he wants to go.

"My main goal is just to be a great player, an All-America," said Johnson. "When people talk about the tight ends who have played at Alabama they say Howard Cross and Lamonde Russell. When I'm finished playing here I would like to be considered the best tight end to play at Alabama. It will mean something to me to achieve that."

Johnson said, "I always set my goals high. Then, even if I don't reach those goals, if I try, I'll still end up one or two steps ahead of the next person just because my goals are so high."

Johnson, soft-spoken and polite, is not some piece of chopped liver spouting off. He's more like filet mignon, a *USA Today* and Blue Chip High School All-America, Mississippi High School All-Star, and two-way all-state player for Panola High School in 1990. As a prep junior he caught 66 passes for 18 touchdowns and then as a senior 56 for 19 touchdowns. He was a three-time all-conference player, and even though that was a small pond, it was obvious Tony Johnson was a big fish.

He was recruited by most of the schools in the Southeastern Conference and the Big Ten, as well as many others. In fact, he gave an early verbal commitment to Ole Miss, but said later that was only to get recruiters to quit hounding him.

"For a long time I knew I was going to Alabama, but I didn't tell anyone, not even my coaches," he said. "Nobody knew what I was going to do."

"I committed to Mississippi early—too early—but I did it just to get them—the people—off my back. People were pressing me to stay at home and play in order to bring recognition to the state, but that didn't make any difference to me because I wanted to go where I could win."

A couple of weeks before signing date, Johnson committed to Alabama.

"Coach (Mike) Solari (who recently left Alabama to return to the National Football League with the San Francisco 49ers) had been recruiting me," Johnson said. "He heard about me committing to Mississippi and asked me if he was wasting his time. I told him he wasn't."

Although he strung out the recruiting process, Johnson said the Alabama tradition made his decision an easy one. "I didn't play on a high school team that won the state title, but at Alabama I knew I had a chance to be on a team that could win three or four SEC titles and possibly some national championships," he said. "One reason I thought that is because Alabama has won a lot of championships and another was I knew who a lot of the players were who were committing to Alabama and would be in my freshman class and that as a group we would have a chance to accomplish some of those things."

"Everyone here knows what's at stake. Coach Stallings is always stressing to us what it's going to take to win a national championship. Everybody here is working hard to get better."

Johnson, a 6-4, 248-pound redshirt freshman who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds, has the size and speed to realistically shoot for the stars. He can catch the football and he's made great strides as a blocker, making him a potential all-star tight end.

"Yes, he has All-America qualities and he has the ability to attain that status by the time he leaves here," said Bama Assistant Coach Woody McCorvey, who coaches Tide receivers, including the tight ends. "But, there's a long way to go before then. He hasn't played a down yet. He has to make a lot of improvement and work hard. But before he's through, he can be the most complete tight end that Alabama has seen in a long time."

If working hard and really wanting to improve are key ingredients to reaching his lofty goals, then Johnson is ahead of the game.

"I'm always willing to pay the price to get better," said Johnson, currently number two on the Crimson Tide depth chart at tight end behind senior Steve Busky. "I don't think I'll ever do enough or be satisfied with my play on the football field, because I'm just that type person."

"I just feel that way, and I hope the coaches feel the same way because then they'll want to teach me more."

"When I'm practicing and I run a passing route or do something, I'll ask the

coaches, 'Is that the way you want it run? Am I doing it right?' I want to know so that I can improve."

Although the possibility of Johnson playing last season was discussed, especially on passing downs, everyone, including Johnson, agreed that it was best for Johnson to redshirt. Johnson said that McCorvey told him he could have been a selfish coach and played him in certain situations, but that it would have essentially been a wasted year, and McCorvey said he didn't want to take the year away from Johnson.

"A guy can really be happy when a coach tells you that, because it shows the coach is concerned about you," said Johnson.

Johnson admitted that it wasn't easy, practicing without participating in games.

"Coming out of high school after being rated as highly as I was, it was a really tough year," he said. "You watch the game and hear the crowd and the only thing you can do is fantasize and wonder what it would be like if you came in on a certain situation and made the play."

"But I'm glad I redshirted because it was the perfect year spent for the perfect cause—and that was to get better."

With an attitude like that no wonder Johnson has been described by one coach as the 'perfect redshirt.' He's a coaches dream.

The potential is there, but as McCorvey pointed out, Johnson is by no means a finished product.

"He had high credentials coming out of high school mainly because of the number of passes he caught and because he was mismatched against some of the kids he played against in high school, but he found out for himself that he wasn't ready to play tight end here," said McCorvey. "He had to gain weight and improve his skills, especially his blocking. But it tells you something about his attitude that he was able to accept that. His attitude is the big thing."

"The redshirt year really helped him because he put on about 25 pounds, got stronger, and gained experience. Going up against the best outside linebackers we had on our team—guys like Steve Webb, Antonio London, and Lemanski Hall—made Tony a better player."

Johnson, who also played linebacker in high school, last year improved his bench press to 320-pounds, but his time in the 40 dropped from 4.5 to 4.7. Johnson said the loss of speed was partially due to the weight gain, but mostly because of arthroscopic surgery he had done following a knee injury suffered the week before

the Blockbuster Bowl.

"I tore some cartilage in my right knee and had to do about a month of rehabilitation. I'm about 97 per cent back right now," he said. "I don't even think about it."

"All I'm thinking about is making the play and getting the job done. I don't have time to think about a little petty injury. A real football player doesn't have time to think about that."

"I'm not worried about my speed. I know for a fact I'll have it back down to 4.5. All it takes is hard work."

No wonder the coaches like Johnson's attitude.

In the A-Day game Johnson played about 90 per cent of the snaps for the White team, though no passes were thrown to him. But according to McCorvey he did a good job blocking, and that's what McCorvey mostly was interested in seeing.

"On those sweeps a key thing is blocking the outside linebacker, and Tony did a good job of doing that," McCorvey said after the contest.

And one of the most impressive aspects of the A-Day Game was actually a non-play in which any Tide follower had to be pleased by Johnson. On a blocked extra point attempt, safety George Teague picked up the ball in the end zone and raced 100 yards. The officials correctly ruled it was not a two-point runback since the blocked kick went past the line of scrimmage. But the most interesting thing about the play was Johnson in pursuit of Teague, gaining ground on the fleet defensive back.

Although a little disappointed that he didn't get his hands on the football in the spring game, Johnson was pleased with his progress in spring training. "I knew ahead of time that the coaches were concerned with my blocking, and by the way we ran the ball I thought it was obvious that I was blocking pretty well."

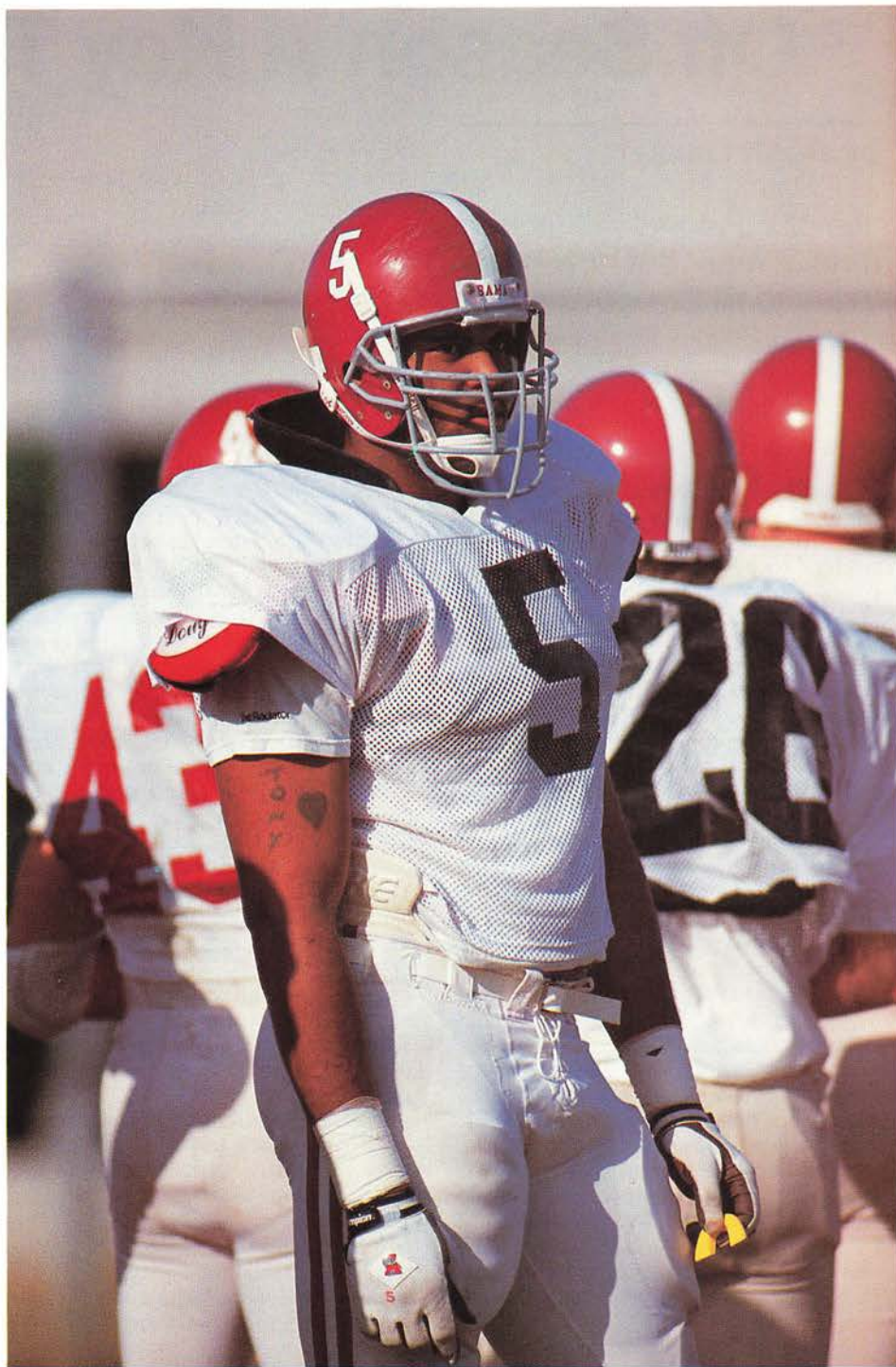
"Coach Stallings and Coach McCorvey both told me that I made a lot of improvement in that area."

"The quarterbacks (Jay Barker and Chad Key) called a couple of plays where I could have been a receiver, but they read the plays and threw elsewhere."

Redshirt season and A-Day game out of the way, Johnson hopes to begin contributing next season. He said he expects to play about 15 snaps a game and hopefully catch about five passes a contest. "I think that's realistic," he said. "Busky is a senior so he deserves to play, but he's going to have to perform every day because I'm going to be right there looking over his shoulder."

"If Busky gets hurt I want the coaches to feel that they can count on me."

Johnson motivates himself to reach his potential on the football field because this active member of the Fellowship of



Tony Johnson has the potential to be an all-star tight end for the Crimson Tide. The former high school All-America was redshirted as a freshman and got bigger and stronger and became a better blocker, getting him closer to his goal of being a top performer.

Barry Fikes Photo

Christian Athletes believes it's his responsibility to fully develop the gifts the Good Lord gave him.

He puts the same kind of effort into other areas of his life as well, pushing

himself to excel. An honor student in high school, he's majoring in business with the hope of going into real estate and investments following an anticipated NFL career.

Off Season A Key To Success

by Rush Garner

Junior nose tackle has been a relief man, but now he's trying to fill Stewart's shoes

To see James Gregory congers up images of thundering hooves. He has tremendous size. And although he prefers to be called Greg, the name Krackatoa might be more appropriate. Which is not to say he can cause a wind that doesn't die down until it goes around the earth seven and a half times, or cause a tidal wave 100 feet tall as the famous volcano of the South Pacific did in the 19th century. But the man who is replacing someone like all-star nose tackle Robert Stewart will have to have an impact.

"I know I'm going to have a lot of people watching me, but I'm not going to let that bother me," said Gregory, an upcoming junior. Talking to this guy is kind of strange. It's like listening to a tenor saxophone while looking at a Sherman tank. To hear his voice, one might get drowsy; he seemingly could cure insomnia just talking. Whatever the case, the voice and demeanor of Gregory are nowhere near as intimidating as his massive presence. At 6-4, 280, he has better size than the man he is replacing. And when that man was the leader of the defense and a likely high draft choice by the National Football League, Alabama fans have reason to lick their chops at the prospect of Gregory anchoring the defensive front.

Along with Gregory, are standout ends John Copeland and Eric Curry (and a good supporting cast), forming what should be one of the nation's most dominating defensive lines.

"I've seen a lot of good players on other teams, but I don't think I've seen two ends like we have," Gregory said. "They both have size and can really move."

But despite his great potential, there are things Gregory must improve upon if he is to rise to All-America status, as he did in high school when he made the

1989 SuperPrep All-America squad after consecutive all-state seasons at Sumner High School in St. Louis.

"His strength is a major concern for us," Alabama Assistant Coach Mike Dubose said. "In this league you have to go at 300-pounders week in and week out. James has trouble with big, strong offensive linemen because he has trouble separating from them."

A key to whether his strength improves is his off season work ethic, which has been questioned in the past. "In the past he has gone home and gotten some of Mom's cooking and has come back kind of heavy," Dubose said. "We will see how much it means to James when he comes back in the fall. The off season and fall practice will be crucial to him." Dubose added, "His footwork has gotten better, along with his understanding of the defensive scheme, and there is no question he has the physical skills to be a great football player."

Because he is soft-spoken off the field, on it he prefers to let his play do the talking. "I don't believe in doing a lot of trash talking in games, because that's just not my style," Gregory said. "If all you do is go out there and talk, you're not concentrating on playing. And besides, I don't want to give my opponent any more incentive than he already has."

For a man so physically imposing, he has a very kind heart and is very loyal. Gregory may not show a lot of emotion, but he sure does take care of his own. He's the oldest of three boys, and often times he's had to mediate between his two younger brothers, a practice which has benefitted him in football, because he has learned that in life you have to turn the other cheek. "When I was growing up, my little brothers would fight a lot and I would have to explain to the older one that even if the younger

one gave him a little back talk, that he didn't need to be mad and get rough with him," Gregory said. The nature of football is such that in a game everyone is going to be vulnerable at some point, so a player has to be able to keep his composure.

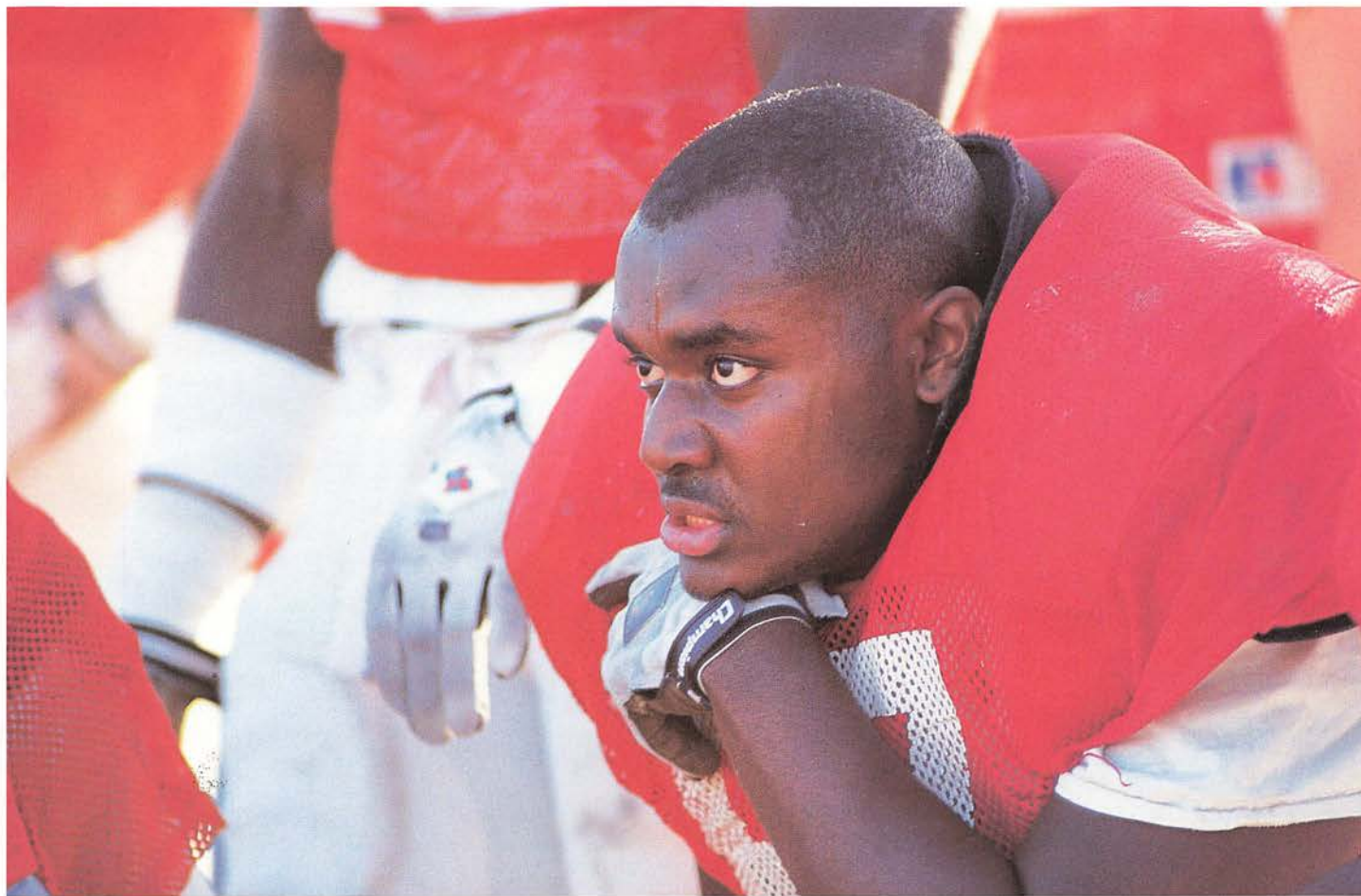
This is a trait James learned from his father, Kenneth Gregory, whom James as a boy watched play at Missouri. "I remember watching my father and always wanting to play like he did," Gregory said. "I can't remember a single time he lost his temper on the field. He just went about his business and kept to himself."

But don't let his quiet nature be mistaken for complacency. He just wants to set an example for others by doing and not saying. And who could argue with that philosophy? He's obviously doing something right because he has catapulted himself into the number one spot at nose tackle. That job was vacated by an All-America and it is no surprise that many wonder if Gregory can fill those shoes.

"Robert was a great player, as good as anybody in the country," Gregory said. "I got to play behind him and was able to learn some things that made me a better player. I can see everyone in the stands looking at me wondering how I'm going to do. You know they wonder if I am going to be able to step in for Robert and do the job. They are going to wonder if I can make things happen like he did."

Gregory has been primarily a spot backup player in his first two seasons at Alabama. As a true freshman in 1990 he saw some action, though not enough to letter. Last year he was still behind Stewart, although he did earn a couple of starts, against Temple and Memphis State, when Stewart was hurt. He finished the season with 15 tackles, one behind the line for two yards, and one fumble recovery.

While this spring he spent the entire



James Gregory feels he has learned a lot about the nose tackle position by watching the play of graduated all-star Robert Stewart the past two years. Now he has a chance to have the starting job as he enters his junior season.

Barry Fikes Photo

season battling Elverett Brown for the starting nose tackle position, he worked the spring prior to his sophomore season primarily on the offensive side of the ball, where he had earned most of his fame in high school. However, by the time the 1991 season started, Gregory was back on defense.

But the challenges which Gregory faces at Alabama are miniscule compared to the ones he faced growing up in north St. Louis. With the same problems most densely populated cities have, Gregory had a treacherous road through childhood. Police cars constantly lurked in his neighborhood, trying to subdue the growing crime rate. This may have had an effect on Gregory, perhaps one reason for his desire to earn a degree in criminal justice.

"I came straight out of the ghetto, and after my father quit playing football he became a police officer," Gregory said.

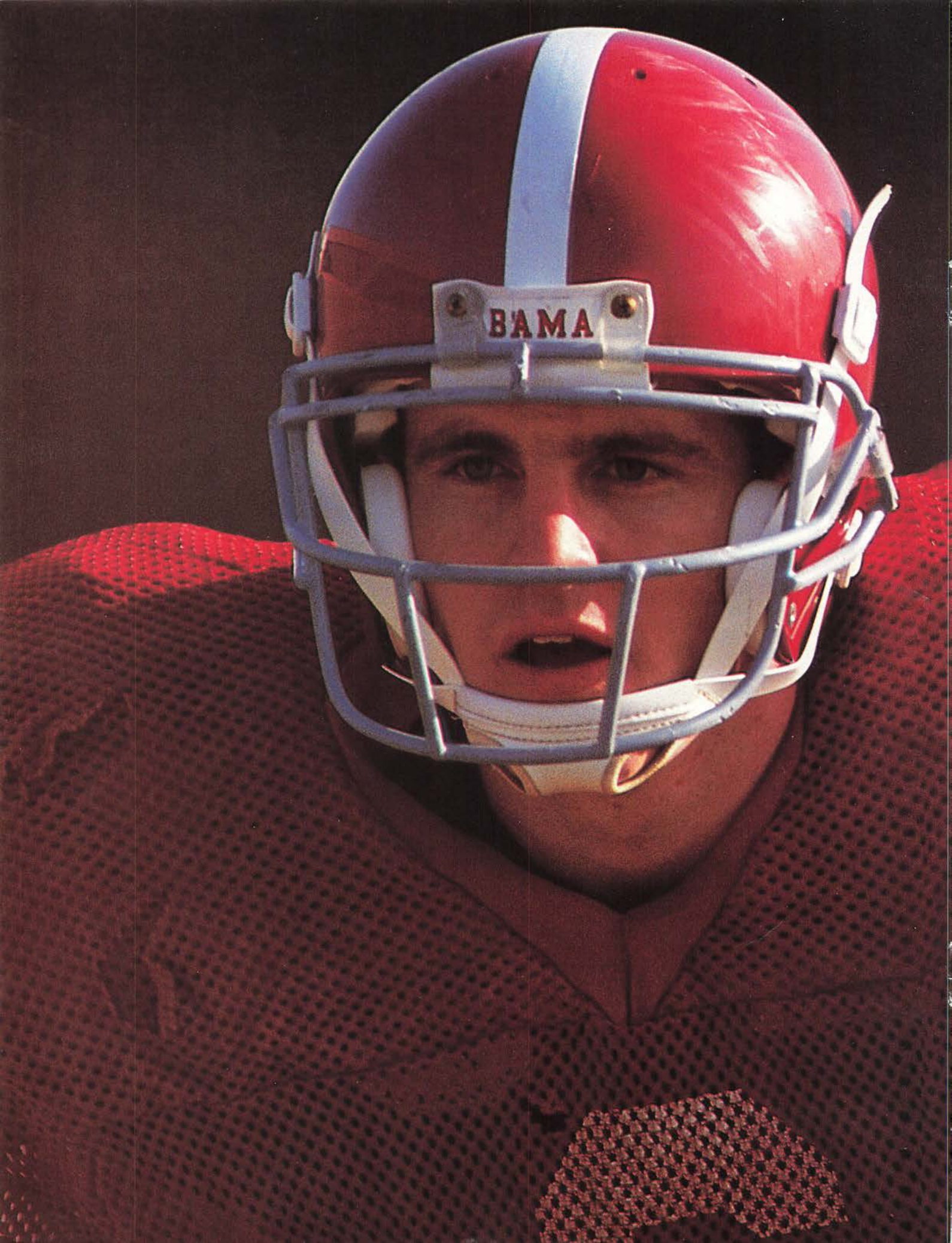
"Naturally, I wanted to follow in his footsteps and that's why I decided to go into criminal justice." Rest assured, a future Officer James Gregory won't have to worry about anyone resisting arrest. A more likely scenario is the accused confronted by Gregory offering to handcuff himself.

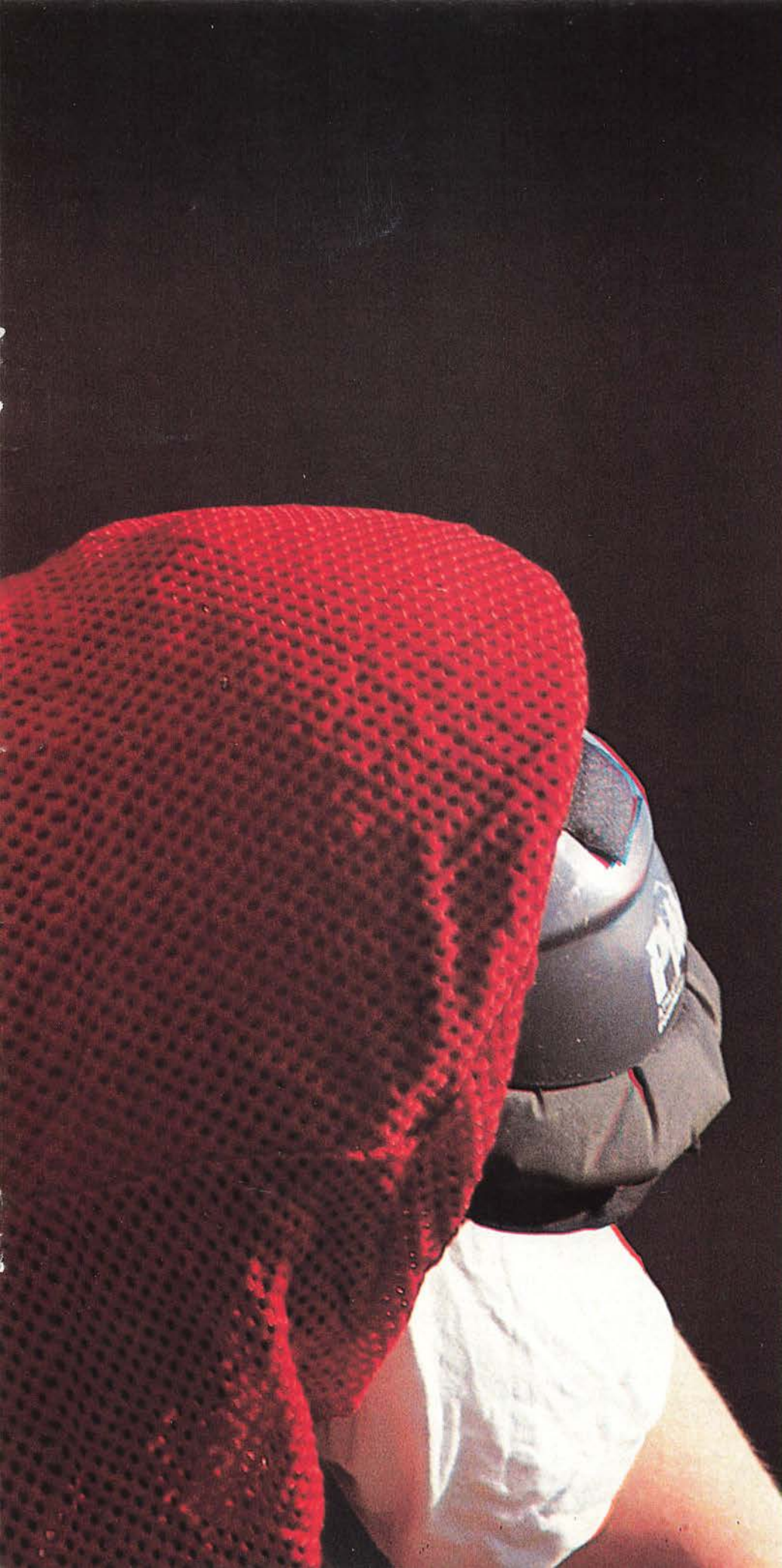
But the successful manner with which he has escaped the trials of city life has not made him forget his friends. Whenever he gets back to the old neighborhood, he is mobbed by old high school buddies whom Gregory feels he has a steadying influence upon. Although he could easily captivate an audience for hours on end with stories of playing football for Alabama, Gregory prefers to merely exchange pleasantries and let the fact he is the only one on the block to attend college speak for itself.

"I don't really want to think of myself as an example, but if it helps those guys out in any way, I'm happy to do it,"

Gregory said. "But as for my brothers, I feel I definitely have a responsibility to them and I want them to follow in my footsteps." His younger brother, 19, is playing football at Northern Illinois, while the baby of the family is 11, his potential football career still ahead. (Gregory's football career was delayed at a young age. He was so big they wouldn't let him play little league football. He had to wait until ninth grade before strapping on his first pair of shoulder pads.)

Even though Gregory was (and is) very large, when he arrived at Alabama in 1990 for his freshman season, he weighed in at a staggering 320 pounds. He immediately began reducing, until he was down to a svelte 280. He feels, though, he might be even more effective if he lost five or ten more pounds. But with the head-butting required of his position, Gregory needs all the beef he can get.





Chris Donnelly:

He's Found The Right Atmosphere

by Kirk McNair

**Transfer from Vanderbilt
will go into fall practice
as starting free safety**

There are a lot of good things about Vanderbilt University, but one of them is not fanatical support for its football team. Vandy students are wont to straggle in to Vanderbilt Stadium around the end of the first quarter, check their gold Rolex watches frequently, then leave early in the fourth quarter. Chris Donnelly played in that atmosphere for two years, 1989 and 1990. This spring he was talking to one of his fellow students, who told Donnelly of some of his former classmates. Donnelly said, "I remarked that the guys he was talking about played here four or five years ago. He said that he had been here seven years and wasn't leaving until we won a national championship, so would we please hurry up. That's the kind of atmosphere a football player likes to be around."

Chris Donnelly has found the atmosphere he wants at Alabama. After a 1989 season in which he was honored as Freshman of the Year in the Southeastern Conference and a sophomore year in which he was preseason All-SEC, Donnelly wanted a change. Now he's ticketed to be the starting free safety when Alabama opens the 1992 season. . . against Vanderbilt.

At the end of the 1990 season, Donnelly and his Vanderbilt teammates met with Head Coach Watson Brown, who told the team he would no longer be the head football coach. "That really made it easier for me," Donnelly said. "I had known for a long time that I wanted

Chris Donnelly has not yet played in a football game for Alabama, but he has impressed Crimson Tide coaches with his football intelligence and desire to excel.

Barry Fikes Photo

to leave, but I really liked Coach Brown. I remember after that meeting I went up to the coaches' offices to talk to my position coach (Ron Case), who I really liked, and his office was empty. All of them were. The coaches had already cleared out." (Not long after Case was re-hired and continues as secondary coach at Vanderbilt.)

A couple of days later when new Vanderbilt Head Coach Gerry DiNardo took over, Donnelly made an appointment to see him. "I told him I wanted to transfer and he said that would be fine," Donnelly said. "I don't know if he knew who I was or if he thought I had a bad attitude or if he just didn't want someone on his team who didn't want to be there, which I respect. But for whatever reason, he didn't try to talk me into staying and I appreciated that, because I didn't go to him to get talked into staying. I appreciated very much the way he handled it."

Alabama's second recruitment of Donnelly was not too difficult. When Donnelly was a quarterback at Germantown High School near Memphis, Tennessee, he attended football camp at Alabama. And Alabama recruited him his senior year. "But before I made my visit to Alabama, I committed to Vanderbilt," Donnelly said.

Randy Ross, who is recruiting coordinator at Alabama, was the quarterback coach at Vanderbilt then. "We really thought he wanted to go to Alabama, but his brother (Brian) had played at Vanderbilt and that probably helped us," Ross said.

After obtaining his release from Vandy, Donnelly called Ross at Alabama. "He put me on the telephone with Coach (Bill) Oliver. Alabama was practicing for the (Fiesta) bowl game, but after that we came to an agreement. I wanted to come to Alabama and Alabama wanted me. We didn't announce anything until after the signing date and I came in last August."

Soon after Donnelly's call, Ross sat down with Oliver and Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings. Oliver was aware of Donnelly from his high school days, and the Tide coaches were also aware of his play at Vanderbilt.

Donnelly said that a number of schools which knew that he had left Vanderbilt contacted him, not knowing he was transferring to Alabama. "I told all of them, thanks, but I wasn't interested. Some of them thought I was quitting football."

Quitting football is the last thing that would have been on Donnelly's mind. "One reason we were anxious to get him is that he's an Alabama type football

player," Ross said. "Winning is important to him and he's a winner. We knew he would fit in well with our players, and he certainly has. Winners go together."

Donnelly made an impression with Alabama's coaches last fall, when he was able to practice but unable to play because of the transfer rule. He will have two years of eligibility remaining beginning this fall.

One reason Donnelly initially chose Vanderbilt is because that was the only school that recruited him as a quarterback, and Donnelly wanted to be a quarterback. And he had the credentials. He was his team's starting quarterback for three years, years in which his team made it to the state playoffs, once reaching the finals. As a junior he was the only non-senior starter, a team that included six players who signed major college scholarships (including Bama linebacker Chris Cochran, who was Donnelly's center and who also played outside linebacker). That junior year he passed for over 1,000 yards and rushed for over 900 in Germantown's option offense.

"Now that I look back on it, I know I wasn't a college quarterback," Donnelly said. "But you can't tell a 17- or 18-year-old high school quarterback that he's not a college quarterback."

Although Donnelly had made All-Metro as a quarterback his senior year at Germantown, he had also played a little defensive back that season and made all-state as a defensive back.

At Vanderbilt he lasted just one day as a quarterback, then was moved to safety. He wasn't an immediate success, but it didn't take him long, either.

"I was behind everyone—fourth or fifth team safety—when they moved me," he said. "By the week of the opening game I had moved up to second team. I got to play some in the opener, and then the next week I moved up to first team and started the rest of the year."

He was the returning starter and one of Vanderbilt's top players in 1990, but it was a tough year. Even before practice started he said the publicity he had received added to the pressure. Then Donnelly suffered a hamstring pull during preseason drills and saw only spot duty in the opening game. He regained his starting spot by the second game and started every game though the Georgia game, the sixth game of the year, when he suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings is happy to have Donnelly aboard. Prior to the start of spring train-

ing he said several times that he thought Donnelly would prove to be a good player based on what he had seen of Donnelly during fall work. At the end of spring training Stallings said, "I think he's going to be a good football player; not an average one—a good one. He knows what he's doing. He's got a feel for playing the safety position."

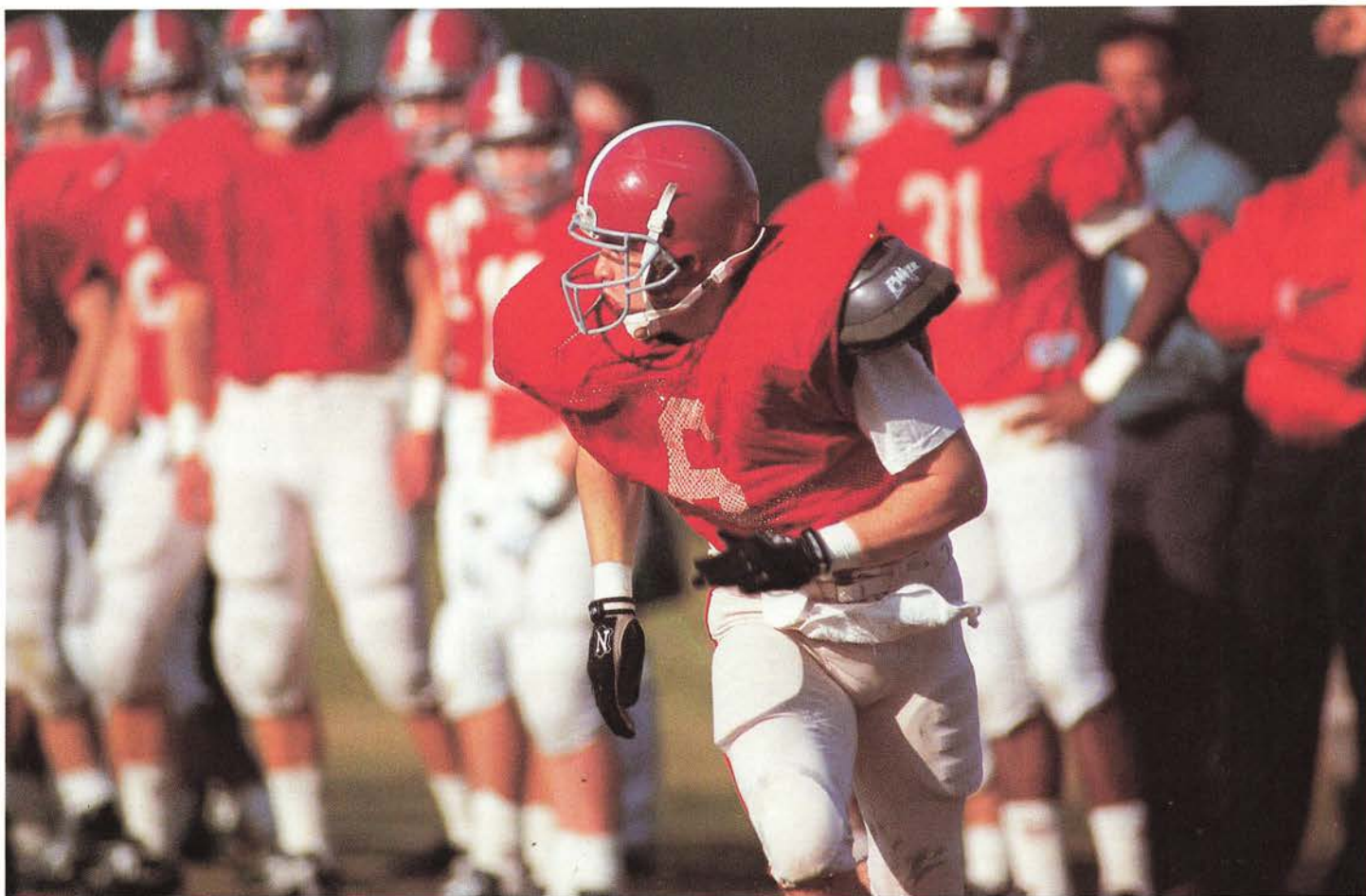
Donnelly was a 1991 Alabama signee, reporting in last August with the freshmen signees and others who had not previously played football at Bama. A difference for Donnelly is that he knew from day one that he would not be playing in the fall, sitting out the year as a redshirt as mandated by NCAA transfer rules. It was a tough time for a young man who had been an active player in all sports all his life. "You don't feel as much a part of the team when you're not contributing on Saturdays," he said. But I knew what I was in for. It wasn't like a knee injury, something sudden. And it wasn't something someone did to me; I did it. It was tough at first because I didn't know a lot of guys, but one way you get to know them is to show what you can do on the practice field."

He knew Cochran, his former high school teammate; and he had met Jeremy Nunley and John Clay in the Tennessee high school all-star camp. And he soon became close friends with just-graduated seniors Craig Sanderson and Kevin Turner.

"After the season got started and we got into a rhythm, it went along fast," Donnelly said. "I expected it to be slow, but the winning made it seem a lot faster. Even though I wasn't playing, I was happy to be in this program. And I would say it was an advantage to me to have to sit out because it made me realize how much the game means to me."

Donnelly said he spent the fall "trying to learn Coach (Bill) Oliver's system. After two years of SEC football, I thought I knew defense, but he's really advanced. I've learned a lot. He is a great coach." Donnelly said the fact he wasn't playing gave him an opportunity to observe a lot during practice and he believes it helped him prior to spring training. "I didn't do much the first month or so because Coach Oliver just wanted me to watch and learn," Donnelly said. "Then I got on the scout team and played free safety and strong safety and even some cornerback to help me with my man-to-man coverage." He said he didn't know if the coaches were noticing his work "because they're watching the players, not the scout team." But the coaches were very much aware of the scout team defensive back.

In fact, Donnelly more than finished



Chris Donnelly considers one of his strengths as a football player to be the study he puts in to be aware of opponents' offenses and to know the complicated coverage schemes of Crimson Tide Assistant Coach Bill Oliver. But Bama coaches also appreciate his athletic ability and toughness.

Barry Fikes Photo

the spring as the number one free safety. His work there last fall and this spring enabled Tide coaches to move George Teague, who led the SEC in interceptions from his free safety position last year, to strong safety, filling the gap left by the graduation of Stacy Harrison. In Alabama's scheme, the strong and weak safety positions are similar, and Teague and Donnelly can play either.

Donnelly's position coach, Bill Oliver, said, "He has come in and absorbed things quickly. When a player can grasp things as quickly as he can, you can put a lot more things in and he can do them, which makes us more effective. He has very good vision and knows how to reduce things. He loves to play the game. He's going to be a good one for us. We welcomed him with open arms when he came, and they're open even wider now. He's not only a fine football player, he's a fine young man."

Donnelly thinks the redshirt year was good for him. "I'm bigger (6-0, 187), stronger (335 bench press) and faster

(4.6 in the 40) now. And I was able to really concentrate on my school work last fall when I wasn't playing."

Donnelly is the type player who can get a lot out of a redshirt year. He is a student of the game. "People say I have a good nose for the football," he said. "But I watch a lot of film and I know how to read offenses and to see the little things that make a difference. I don't know it all, but I think I have a good handle on our scheme. And I try to make big plays."

He said he wants the same things that all football players want in order to improve, "to be bigger and faster. I'd like to have a little more weight, but I won't add weight at the expense of speed."

He said he would be in Tuscaloosa this summer, going to school and working out in preparation for the 1992 football season.

Donnelly expects his first game at Alabama to be an emotional one. "Vandy will be very special," he said. "I'll

be fired up. I'm going to be going for them and they're going to be going for me. I don't think about it a lot, but when I do I get keyed up." He said right after he left Vanderbilt he talked to his former teammates often, but does so only infrequently now. However, he did meet his former roommate, Vanderbilt tight end Pat Akos, in Fort Lauderdale for the Blockbuster Bowl game between Alabama and Colorado.

Even though Donnelly wanted to leave Vanderbilt, he said, "It was hard to leave my teammates. It was a tough decision, one that I thought a lot about before I made it. So far, the most important decision I've made was when I picked Vanderbilt and the second most important decision I've made was to leave Vanderbilt and come to Alabama. But that's part of life. Those won't be the last decisions I have to make."

"I'm thankful for a lot of things," Donnelly said. "There aren't many kids my age (he just turned 22) who get the opportunities I have had."

Alabama Plays A Part In His Life

by John C. Hinds, Jr.

Former Tide football and baseball player has made it big, manager of the Big League Boston Red Sox

It is not the thought of a particular football or baseball game, though many stand out; nor the memory of a scene on campus; nor a meeting with Coach Paul Bryant. Rather it is a philosophy that will forever tie Butch Hobson to The University of Alabama.

Perhaps it was expressed by Joab Thomas when, as president of The University, he said, "When you sign on with the Crimson Tide, you forever surrender your right to mediocrity."

Or when Coach Bryant said, "If you be-

lieve in yourself and have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll be a winner."

Although Hobson has worked far from The University since finishing his Crimson Tide career in 1973, he is still an Alabama man. And he takes much of his time at Alabama with him to his new job as manager of the Boston Red Sox, just as he did in his professional playing career and his climb up the managerial ladder.

It was not easy for Hobson at The Capstone. He was raised the son of a former Alabama football star, difficult shoes for any youngster to step into. His father, Clell, had been a fine quarterback at The University in the 1950s, architect of the incredible 61-6 victory over Syracuse in the 1953 Orange Bowl. (Clell's backup? Bart Starr.)

That legacy came to fruition when Butch played football for his father at Bessemer High School. Butch didn't just play the game; he lived it on and off the field. And he became one of the state's finest prep athletes from 1965 through 1968. During the summer he played American Legion baseball in Aliceville, but he was best known for his play when the pads went on in the fall.

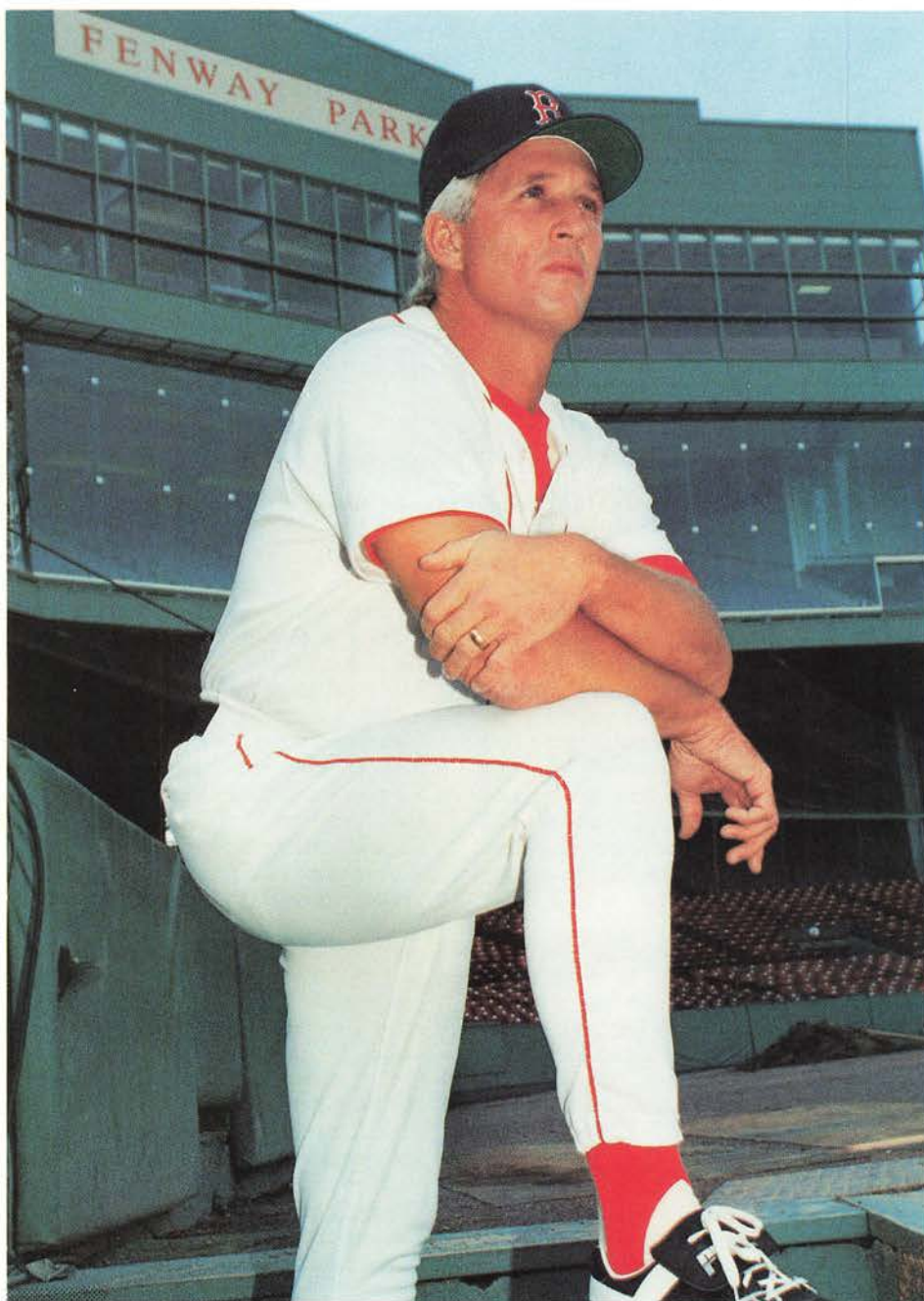
His high school football success was such that every team in the Southeastern Conference, and many others, came calling, offering scholarships. But when he received an offer from Bryant, recruiting was over. "My dad played at Alabama and I wanted to play at Alabama, too," Hobson said. "Alabama has had a great tradition and winning means a great deal to the people surrounding the program. Coach Bryant taught me a lot about winning and losing. I think that has helped me over the years."

(Hobson maintains some ties to Alabama. He and his wife are restoring a home in Aliceville, prime hunting and fishing country for the outdoors-loving Hobson. And he participates in Bama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger's winter baseball camp. This spring he also put a team of younger Red Sox players against the Tide in an exhibition game in Winter Haven, Florida, a 15-2 victory for the professionals.)

Hobson was part of an outstanding freshman class at Bama in 1969. He

Butch Hobson, who played football and baseball at Alabama in the early 1970s, is the 39th manager in the history of the Boston Red Sox.

Photo Courtesy of Boston Red Sox



came in with the likes of Terry Davis, John Hannah, Jim Krapf, Joe LaBue, Tom Luck, Bobby McKinney, Lanny Norris, Jeff Rouzie, Steve Wade and Marvin Barron. It didn't take Hobson long to see what it would take to compete. "I put 100 per cent effort into practice each day with a confidence in my ability," he said.

Freshmen were not allowed to play varsity football then, but rather had a schedule of their own. It was typical for the freshmen to serve as the scout team for the varsity all week, then have a schedule of four or five games, usually on Friday afternoons. "I always thought we held our own against the varsity in those practices," Hobson said, an indication of the talent waiting in the wings for the Tide.

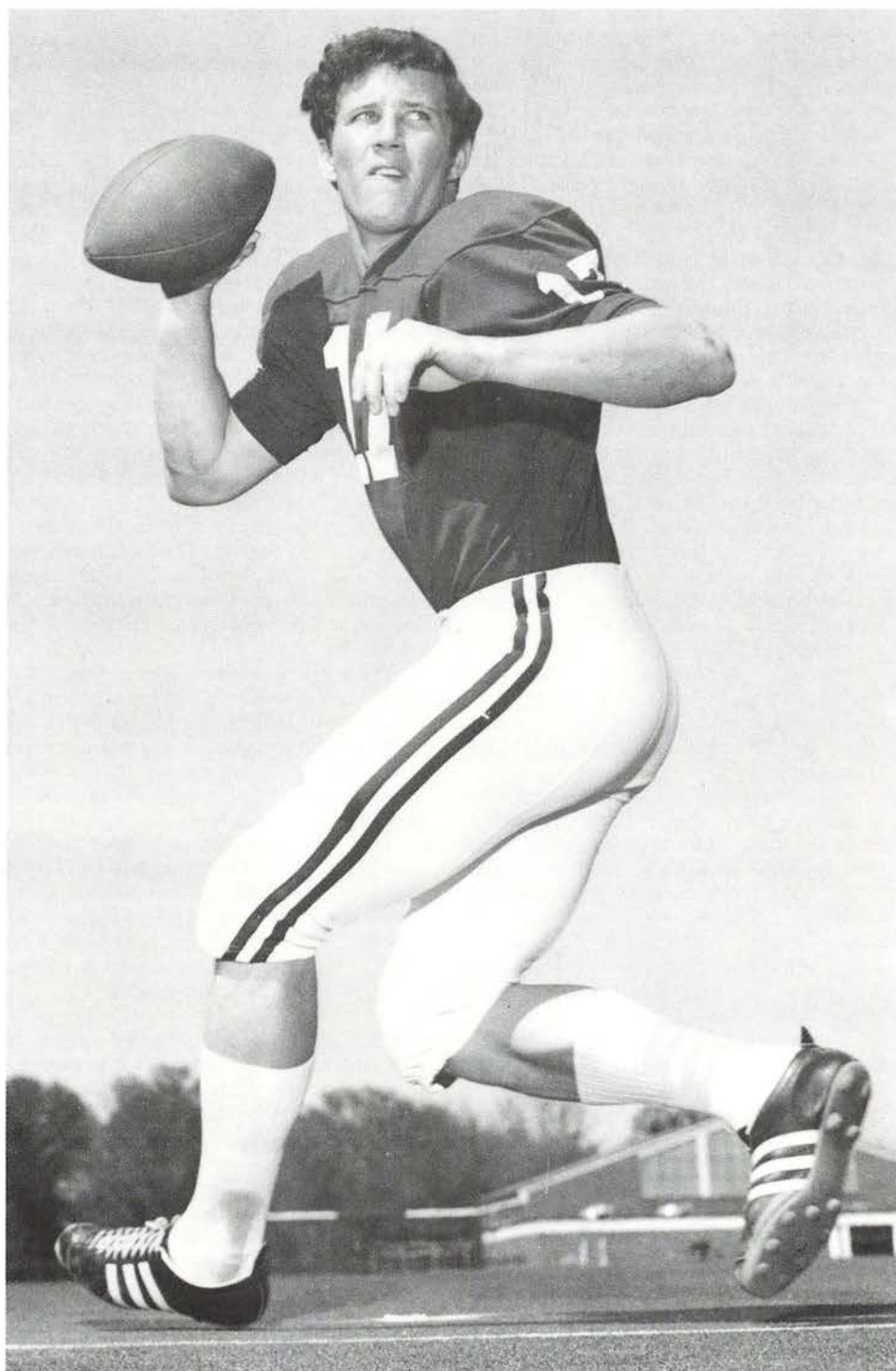
In those days of many more football signees than currently allowed, there were eight quarterbacks on the freshman squad that fall, including Billy Sexton of Tallahassee, Florida. Sexton was one of the most highly-sought quarterbacks in the South, so he got most of the playing time in the freshman games, Hobson said. Butch played free safety in addition to quarterback. He scored his first touchdown in one of those freshman games, the second game of the season against Mississippi State.

As was the case for many football players, then, as now, he was scheduled to be redshirted his sophomore season in 1970. During that redshirt season he was the safety on the scout team. "We had three exceptional quarterbacks in Sexton, Davis and (Benny) Rippetoe, so Coach Bryant thought I could help out on defense," Hobson said. He ended up helping more than expected. He was pressed into duty as a backup defensive back, costing him a year of eligibility. Following that season he met with his head football coach. "I sat down with Coach Bryant around Christmas to find out what my future might be if I stayed with football, and he was very encouraging," Hobson said.

The reason for the meeting was partly because of baseball. Bryant said on a number of occasions he thought Hobson could be outstanding in either football or baseball. And the Bama head football coach usually added that he thought baseball might be Hobson's best sport.

Based on his conversation with Bryant, Hobson returned to the football field in 1971. "I think it paid off because that fall we had three quarterbacks—myself, Terry (Davis) and Benny (Rippetoe)—and I got to play a lot," Hobson said.

That season was one of transition and glory for the Crimson Tide. And a year of change for Butch. That fall he moved from the secondary to quarterback. Just prior to the beginning of the 1971 season the team put in the wishbone offense, one that Hobson was suited for due to his ability



Butch Hobson was not a star quarterback for Alabama, but he worked his way up to second team at quarterback in the Crimson Tide's 11-1 season of 1971.

University of Alabama Photo

to run or pass. It was a memorable year, beginning with the upset of Southern Cal in Los Angeles, continuing through 11 straight winning games, including a 31-7 smashing of Auburn, which also went into the game undefeated, and a chance to play for the National Championship in the

Orange Bowl. Undoubtedly Butch has less pleasant memories of his Orange Bowl playing time than father Clell has of his. Butch played in that game, mostly running for his life, as Nebraska thrashed Bama, 38-6.

When the 1971 lettermen were an-

nounced early in 1972, Davis and Rippetoe (who had finished his career) were the only quarterbacks on the list, even though Hobson had ended the year as the number two quarterback. He had rushed 25 times for 154 yards (6.2 yards per rush) and had two touchdowns and had completed two of eight passes for 29 yards.

In the spring Hobson was not with the football team, but rather playing baseball. He was a starting infielder, playing shortstop, and had a .282 batting average. The next fall, redshirt freshman Gary Rutledge was listed as the number two quarterback in fall drills and Hobson went to Bryant with a proposition that Hobson give up football to concentrate on baseball. College baseball's equivalent of spring training is in the fall. Bryant agreed to the proposal. It is for that reason that Hobson is not among Alabama's football lettermen.

But baseball success made up for that football slight. "I really came into my own at third base in 1973," Hobson said. "I set an SEC record with 13 home runs and led the team in doubles and triples. I was given a tryout by the Cincinnati Reds and drafted in the eighth round by the Boston Red Sox."

Rather than going to Boston and signing and ending his college eligibility, Hobson took advantage of an offer to play summer amateur baseball in Alaska. "It sounded pretty exciting," Hobson said. But it was a disaster. He and his team played poorly. "As soon as I got back I called Milt Bolling (the Red Sox scout in Alabama) and told him I was ready to sign." Boston had an offer of \$4,000 on the table, and it looked good to Hobson. But before signing he made yet another trip to the office of Paul Bryant.

"I went to see him before I signed," Hobson said. "He wished me well, and told me if for some reason I didn't make it to come on back and he'd have a place for me."

Hobson left Alabama with career records of a batting average of .250 with 18 home runs and 54 runs batted in in 102 games. His junior (and final) year in 1973 he hit .317 with a school record 13 home runs, the first man in Crimson Tide baseball history to have as many as 10 home runs in a season. He also had six doubles and a triple and drove in 37 runs.

Butch made it to the major leagues for the final two games of the 1975 season. Boston had already clinched the American League championship with the likes of Carlton Fisk, Carl Yastrzemski, Denny Doyle, Rico Petrocelli, Fred Lynn and Jim Rice.

On June 28, 1976, he was called up to Boston for good. And in his first game he

hit an inside-the-park home run. The next year he set a Red Sox record for home runs (30) and runs batted in (112) by a third baseman.

But it was the summer of 1978 when Hobson and the Red Sox took New England on one of the most memorable baseball rides. It is seasons like those that make Red Sox fans keep coming back. The Red Sox had Butch as their third baseman and through a season fraught with injury and pain, Butch refused to give up his spot in the starting lineup. His injuries were so severe that at times he had to run halfway across the field before he could make the throw from third to first. It was a year in which Boston had a 14-game league lead, lost it, fought back to tie, then lost a one-game playoff to the New York Yankees as Bucky Dent hit a dramatic home run.

"We were stunned," Hobson said. "It was an awful feeling. The fans remember; they always will." But as much as they remember the disappointment, they remember the courage of third baseman Butch Hobson.

The 1980 season was his last with Boston. Then he played for the Yankees and the California Angels in 1981 and 1982 before calling it a playing career. For his eight-year career in the major leagues he hit .289 with 98 home runs and 397 runs batted in.

And among Hobson's biggest fans during his playing career was baseball fanatic Paul Bryant. Hobson said, "One of my fondest memories is when he came to see me play in Fenway Park. I still have a picture of him and me on the field at Fenway in front of the Red Sox dugout."

Though his playing career ended, his baseball career was, in some respects, just beginning. It is no surprise that he wanted to coach, this son of a coach and player for the likes of Paul Bryant and Don Zimmer.

In 1987 he landed his first managerial job as the manager of the Class A Columbia (South Carolina) Mets in the South Atlantic League. In two years he was 138-138. In 1989 he returned to the Red Sox organization as manager of the Class AA New Britain (Connecticut) Red Sox in the Eastern League. In two years there his record was 132-143. It is important to note that won-lost records for minor league managers are not as important as player development, and Hobson was making a reputation as a manager developing young players.

Last year Hobson was promoted to Triple A, manager of the Pawtucket (Rhode Island) Red Sox. He didn't disappoint. His team finished 79-64 and won the International League's Eastern Division Crown. For his work, Butch was recognized as Minor League Manager of

the Year by the magazine, *Baseball America*.

Boston officials weren't the only ones aware of this budding managerial superstar. The Red Sox were looking for a new manager, but so were some other teams. On October 8, 1991, Boston announced that 40-year-old Butch Hobson would be the 39th manager of the Red Sox. At that press conference, Boston Vice President Lou Gorman said, "After speaking with our organizational people over the past few days, and listening to all of the comments we'd received from other people around baseball who had seen Hobson manage and loved his style, we felt we couldn't risk losing such talent in our organization at this time. We felt the time was right for the move. Many of the players who came to be a big part of our team were developed by Butch. We feel it's a natural progression for him. It would have been a mistake to let someone of Butch's talents escape our system."

Hobson has promised a team that will be aggressive. He is well-known for his ability to motivate players. Terry Crowley, a batting instructor for the Minnesota Twins, told the *Boston Globe*: "I've never been around anyone in baseball who could motivate teams like this guy. He made me imagine what Bear Bryant must have been like."

This new job has started with some controversy and sadness. First, his star pitcher, Roger Clemens, did not report with the rest of the Red Sox pitchers and catchers in the last week of February. Next, his leftfielder, Mike Greenwell, chose spring training to clear the air concerning a dispute he had during the 1991 season with another player on the team. Greenwell suggested it is his right as a player to go over the manager's head and go to the general manager if he has a problem. Finally, the Red Sox' principal owner, Jean Yawkey, died on February 27 from complications associated with a stroke.

For a rookie manager, any one of these things would be a major setback. For Hobson, considering his family, his training under Bryant, and his grit, all these things have only made him more determined to stick to his will to win.

For the most part, though, it has been a productive career. "The one regret that I have when I think back on my days on the campus is not concentrating more on my studies," Hobson said. "I really try to instill the value of an education with my children and the kids I talk to. Sports can be a big part of a person's life, but athletics should not be the only thing. You can't play forever, and not everyone goes on to the things I have been able to go on to in sports."

Indeed, almost no one goes on as Butch Hobson has.

A Few More Join The Tide

by Tommy Deas

The spring signing period goes though May 15, but already there are a few additions to the Tide

There is more than one way to recruit your own state, and University of Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson proved that for the second time in the 1991-92 recruiting season with the addition of Walter Pitts to the Tide fold.

The easiest way to pluck in-state talent is to keep a finger on the pulse of the high school basketball scene and court the most promising prospects when they graduate to college. You'll land some and some will get away to rival schools, but a percentage will also take the junior college option either for academic reasons or in hopes of proving their Division I potential with two more years of seasoning.

In the early signing period Sanderson inked 6-5 forward Shon Peck-Love, a product of Coach Roosevelt Sanders' dynasty at Tuscaloosa Central, from Three Rivers Community College in Missouri after he led that program to the national junior college championship (earning most valuable player honors in the tournament).

Sanderson repeated the trick in the spring signing period, luring former three-time all-state performer Pitts of Loachapoka to the Plaid Palace for his remaining two years of college eligibility. Pitts, a 6-4 wing player, averaged 15 points, six rebounds and three assists at Tyler Junior College in Texas.

"Walter will be a fine addition to the University of Alabama with his defense and leadership," Coach Roy Thomas of Tyler said. "He is a great player with a lot of hustle. Walter is a Wimp Sanderson type of player. He plays very hard on defense and is a very intense person."

Pitts couldn't have made his way out of high school without catching the attention of Alabama recruiters, who obviously didn't let him fade from memory when he went the JuCo route. He led Loachapoka to three straight Class 1A state championship games for Coach Larry DiChiara, taking state titles as a sophomore and junior and finishing second as a senior in 1990.

He averaged 25 points per game as a senior, scoring more than 2,000 career points. His jersey number (41) has been retired by Loachapoka High.

"We are looking forward to having Walter join our basketball program,"

Sanderson said. "He has certainly had an excellent two years in junior college and we hope he can be as successful here at Alabama. He has a good work ethic."

Pitts was a two-time all-conference performer at Tyler, the same junior college that produced former Tider David Benoit. He led his team to a combined two-year 46-11 record and two conference championships, and scored 13 points in an all-star game that pitted Texas JuCo stars against a USA All-Star squad.

Pitts joins Peck-Love; South Carolina Player of the Year Marvin Orange, a 6-1 guard; 6-6 forward Anthony Brown of St. Petersburg, Florida; and 6-9 forward Wade Kaiser of Vestavia Hills in Birmingham, the state's Class 6A Player of the Year.

Peck-Love and Pitts are both expected to have to take a few classes this summer before becoming eligible. As of this writing Brown had not yet gained eligibility. Orange and Kaiser are eligible.

Alabama had signed its allotment of players in the early signing period, but had the unexpected opportunity to add two more new faces when Marcus Webb and Dennis Miller left the team last season.

The Crimson Tide was expected to sign one more player (and may yet), but several potential prospects slipped away in the spring period. It is incorrect to say Alabama "lost" a player it never had, but Bama was reportedly involved with a handful who went elsewhere. Willie Walker of Greenville High School has signed with Three Rivers Junior College, so he may be on the recruiting lists again in a couple of years. However, another top in-state prospect, William Rice of Birmingham Jackson-Olin, has signed with Temple. Two junior college players the Tide had thought to be interested in also went elsewhere. Emmitt Hall, a 6-7 forward at Cloud County Community College in Kansas, signed with South Carolina, and Amos Gregory, a 6-8 power forward at Aquinas Junior College in Nashville, picked Nebraska. As of this writing the Tide was thought to be still involved with Craig Tyson, a 6-5 guard from the Junior College of Southern Idaho, who reportedly was leaning to either Bama or Arkansas. Although there were reports Tyson had signed with Bama, Tide officials said he had not.

You wouldn't expect a coach who aims to score 100 points per game to sit still for very long, and Alabama Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody didn't spend the spring resting on his laurels after guiding the Lady Tide to the NCAA tournament.

During the spring signing period, Moody signed three run-and-gun swing players that he thinks will fit in well with his fast-

paced philosophy. Alabama inked perhaps its most heralded recruit ever in the fall in 6-2 Yolanda Watkins of Decatur High, who was recently tabbed by *USAToday* as its national high school Player of the Year (an honor earlier bestowed by *Parade*). She was joined in the fall by 6-2 forward DeAnn Williams, an Iowa product who played at Moberly Community College.

The Tide's three spring signees are Sarah Smith, a 6-1 forward/center from Shelby Academy in Montevallo; Watkins' teammate, Shondra Fuller, 6-0 center/forward from Decatur; and 5-10 Sharrona Alexander of Okaloosa Junior College in Niceville, Florida. She prepped in the hotbed of girls' high school basketball at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Oakland High School.

"Sarah is a very good athlete," Moody said. "She can run. She jumps very well, has a very nice shooting touch and has not even scratched the surface of her potential."

"In my opinion, when she gets to this level and competes against the more gifted players that are at this level, she'll really flourish because she's a highly competitive individual who I believe has the intangibles to make it on this level. She could play the three, four or five spot because she has good shooting range. The way our system is set up now, you've just got to run. She runs very well and should fit into our scheme."

Fuller averaged 18.7 points and 11.1 rebounds per game as a senior, and was Class 6A Tournament MVP as she scored a record 157 points. Moody said, "She's a tremendous offensive rebounder and a great runner and has always been a winner."

Alexander will move from a program that was built from the ground up to one Moody is in the process of revitalizing.

"She's coming from a (junior college) program they started back last year and they were 26-3," Moody said. "Her coach (Micky Englet) has been coaching basketball for many, many years. They run a style of basketball that's similar to ours where they play 94 feet of defense and run the floor. She is a great scorer. She has the potential to swing from the post position to the wing position, which, again with our scheme, gives us a lot of flexibility. Sharrona is fundamentally sound. She, like Sarah, is a very good basketball player who is a very good person."

Moody hopes to add one more signee. Coaches cannot comment on prospects until all scholarship papers have been received from the players by mail, and schools cannot announce signings until such papers are received.

The spring signing period runs until May 15 for most sports and we will update the signings in all sports in our August issue.

Tide Stars Of The Past Remember

by John Barnes

Former Tide football stars remember their days on the field, but they've gone on to other things

This year's Alabama spring football game marked the official kickoff of "Century of Champions," Bama's year-long centennial celebration. More than 500 former players returned to The Capstone for the event, the largest-ever gathering of Alabama football lettermen. We spoke with some of them on the quad, inquiring as to their favorite memory as a player and what they are doing now. Here, briefly, are some of those stories:

DAVID HANNAH •DT• 1975-79
A four-year letterman and member of the 1978 and 1979 National Champions, David was the last of the Hannahs to play for the Crimson Tide. Selected first-team All-SEC in 1979, he runs the family farm equipment business in Albertville. "Winning two National Championships was great," he says. "However, my favorite memory is simply for my teammates. It was a great honor to play with guys like Steadman Shealy, E.J. Junior and Byron Bragg."

HERB HANNAH •G• 1948-50
A big, bruising guard for coach Harold "Red" Drew, Herb was the first of four Hannahs to play for Alabama. Sons John, Charles and David also wore the Crimson and earned All-SEC honors. Son John is widely regarded as the greatest offensive lineman in the history of football and was recently inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Retired and living in Albertville, Hannah recalls the 1950 Auburn game: "I threw a blind block and sprung Larry Chiodetti for a touchdown. I turned around and saw the Auburn player knocked out on the ground. Our bench started whooping and hollering about that block, but I never saw the film and really don't know how good it was. It was a great feeling, nevertheless."

DENNIS HOMAN •SE• 1965-67
A consensus All-America pick in 1967, Homan holds the single-season yardage record for receiving with 820. Homan lives in Florence, where he is a medical

representative for Abbot Laboratories.

"I'll always remember the first game of my senior year. We were playing Florida State and were supposed to have our best defense since the days of Lee Roy Jordan. The game ended in a 37-37 tie and we were fortunate to even have an opportunity to tie the game. Coach Bryant was incensed. However, we learned some hard lessons and went on to have a great season."

JOEY JONES •SE• 1980-83
A textbook possession receiver for Paul Bryant and Ray Perkins, Joey was known for his precise routes and acrobatic catches. He ranks third in career touchdown receptions with 15.

Currently head football coach at Dora High School, Joey recalls the 1982 season: "We were having our pre-game meal prior to playing Penn State. Coach Bryant noticed a few of the guys weren't wearing ties. He stood up and said, 'Those of you without ties had better get out of here and don't come back until you have one on.' They scrambled out and returned wearing big yellow bow ties, ties borrowed from hotel guests, anything they could get their hands on. I later realized that it was just another one of his subtle motivational tactics. We went out and won the game 42-21."

LEE ROY JORDAN •LB• 1960-62
Voted to the "Team of the Century," Jordan was the Tide's all-everything linebacker-center on the 1961 National Championship team. He turned in what many consider to be the finest-ever individual performance by an Alabama athlete, recording 31 tackles in Bama's 17-0 win over the Oklahoma Sooners in the 1963 Orange Bowl. A consensus All-America at Alabama and an All-Pro with the Dallas Cowboys, Jordan resides in Dallas where he is in the California redwood business.

"Winning the 1961 National Championship will always stand out in my mind," he says. "We came back in '62 and almost won it again, losing only one game by one point, and then the great Orange Bowl win against the University of Oklahoma. President Kennedy was there and it was very special."

VAUGHN MANCHA •C• 1944-47
A consensus All-America on Alabama's last Rose Bowl team, Mancha started as a freshman at center and held the spot for his entire college career. A member of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, Mancha is retired from the faculty at Florida State University and still resides in Tallahassee.

"I'll always remember the train trip to the Rose Bowl in 1945. We must have been gone for close to five weeks. Coach Thomas would make us stop every 200 miles or so and practice. Those of us who thought this long trip would get us away from our schoolwork were wrong, as The University made arrangements for our professors to travel with us and conduct classes as usual. We ate so much on that train that Coach Thomas got mad and made us run extra at the end of each practice. We arrived in Pasadena a little smarter and a little fatter, but managed to beat Southern Cal anyway 34-14."

DON MCNEAL •DB• 1977-79
Regarded by many as one of the best pass coverage men to ever wear the Crimson, McNeal led Bama's stellar defense to consecutive national championships and earned All-America and All-SEC honors in 1979. Everyone remembers the goal line stand in the 1979 Sugar Bowl with Krauss, Wingo, etc. stuffing Penn State fullback Mike Guman at the goal line on fourth down. On second down, however, McNeal may have made the single greatest play of the game. Lions receiver Scott Fitzkee hauled in a Chuck Fusina pass and appeared to be headed for the tying touchdown. McNeal appeared from nowhere to make a brilliant open-field tackle, knocking Fitzkee out of bounds at the one yard line. Had it not been for that play, there would have been no goal line stand.

Currently employed by *The Miami Herald* in subscriber services, Don remembers the lessons learned from Paul Bryant. "He taught you not only about football, but about life after football. He would say, 'No matter where you go or what you do, always show your class.' It helped me throughout my professional career and continues to help me today."

JOHNNY MUSSO •HB• 1969-71
A combination of hard running, great speed and impeccable balance made Johnny a two-time All-America and one of the most popular Tide players ever. One of three running backs elected to the "Team of the Century," Musso lives in Chicago and is on the Chicago Board of Trade.

"The one thing that stands out in my mind is the 1971 Southern Cal game. We were to unveil the wishbone and all the secrecy helped to make it a very special game. The night before we left for Los Angeles, we held a closed practice under the lights at Thomas Field. It would be our last chance to run the new offense, because we were not going to practice the wishbone once we got to

California. The students were holding a pep rally on the quad and somehow the pep rally ended up outside the practice field. They opened the gates and our fellow students came in and saw what was going on. The excitement level built quickly and carried over into the game, which we won, 17-10."

BILLY NEIGHBORS • T • 1959-61

Elected to the "Team of the Century," Neighbors was a consensus All-America two-way tackle on Paul Bryant's first National Championship team. Neighbors led a defensive unit that gave up only 25 points for the season and defeated Arkansas 10-3 in the Sugar Bowl.

Currently a financial advisor with Prudential Securities in Huntsville, Neighbors remembers a practice session in 1961: "We were preparing to play Georgia and Coach Bryant called the first team together. He told us we weren't worth a damn and demoted us to the last team. In those days, the last team wore yellow jerseys at practice. He made us put on those yellow jerseys and walk across campus from Denny Stadium to the dorm. I guess that was his way of telling us he thought we were going to be pretty good but he didn't want us to know it yet. We went on to win the National Championship."

KEITH PUGH • SE • 1977-79

A solid performer at split end on Paul Bryant's 1978 and '79 National Championship teams, Pugh was known for his layout, fingertip catches. He is currently pastor at First Baptist Church in Jackson.

"My fondest memory would have to be the '79 Sugar Bowl against Penn State. We went into the game ranked number two, having lost to Southern Cal earlier in the year. We all remember the goal line stand and we won the game 14-7. What a great thrill it was."

RANDY SCOTT • LB • 1978-80

Currently a property tax consultant in Atlanta, Randy was a valuable member of the Tide's 1979 National Championship team. Often overshadowed by the likes of E.J. Junior and Byron Braggs, Randy helped anchor a defense that gave up only 67 points en route to a 24-9 victory over the Arkansas Razorbacks in the 1980 Sugar Bowl.

Never at a loss for words, Randy remembers his first encounter with Paul Bryant: "I was young, skinny and the 28th recruit out of Decatur, Georgia. One day, I got lost while looking for a meeting room and accidentally ended up in the coaches offices. I look up and there is Coach Bryant. I was scared to death. He looked down and said, 'Hello Randy.' I was just a lowly freshman and couldn't believe he knew my name, but that's the type of man he was. That really impressed me."



Among the former Alabama All-America football players who returned to campus for the A-Day weekend and kickoff of "Century of Champions" were Vaughn Mancha (left) and Johnny Musso, both named to the Team of the Century.

Kent Gidley Photo

STEADMAN SHEALY • QB • 1977-79

A pure option quarterback, Shealy ran the Bama wishbone to perfection in winning the 1979 National Championship. Bama's dominating, ball control offense rolled up 383 points to the opponents' 67. Steadman is currently an attorney in his home town of Dothan.

"My senior year against Auburn, we were 10-0 and ranked number one. Late in the game, we were down 18-17. We put together a great drive and I had the privilege of scoring the winning touchdown."

FRED SINGTON • T • 1928-30

A member of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, "Football Freddie" led the 1930 Crimson to a 10-0 record and a 24-0 win over Washington State in the Rose Bowl. Sington was the consummate student-athlete, earning consensus All-America honors and a Phi Beta Kappa key. He went on to a professional baseball career with the Washington Senators and Brooklyn Dodgers.

Still active in the sporting goods business in Birmingham, Sington remembers the 1930 season: "We were playing Bobby Dodd and Tennessee in Tuscaloosa. It was a great game and we won 18-6. We went on to beat Washington State 24-0 in the Rose Bowl, giving up only 13 points for the entire

season. It's a funny thing about old athletes, we can always remember those scores."

HOYT "WU" WINSLETT • E • 1924-26

Alabama's oldest living All-America, Winslett never played in a losing game at The Capstone. He played in Bama's first two Rose Bowls, a 20-19 victory over Washington in 1926 and a 7-7 tie with Stanford in 1927. Retired from the insurance business, Winslett resides in Tuscaloosa.

"I guess my favorite memory would have to be the Georgia Tech game in 1926. When I was in high school, I had always heard of the 'Golden Tornado' and hoped to one day play against them. I played in the 1925 Tech game when we had Pooley Hubert, Johnny Mack Brown and the rest of those great players. In 1926, they had all graduated and we weren't really sure what kind of team we had. In that '26 Tech game, Coach Wade played me at defensive end and offensive back. The Tech players were expecting me to throw the ball, so we ran it instead. I believe I was the leading rusher that day. I also completed two long scoring passes to Herschel Caldwell and Snake Vines. We won the game 21-0, handing Tech its worst defeat in many years, perhaps ever. That's when the newspaper boys started calling me 'The Terrible Mr. Wu.'"

Late Start Hasn't Held Him Back

by Becky Hopf

Although Tide tennis star came to the sport late, sophomore ranks among the nation's best

Visiting tennis players from Indiana were watching their teammate in a match against Alabama. "Did you see that?" one of the players said to the other. "The guy's unbelievable. Look at the way he moves. No way he should have been able to return that."

The smooth, cat-like moves Cecil Brandon makes have amazed ever since he first picked up a racquet. The speed at which he has pounced upon collegiate success is in itself a wonder.

While most of his peers have been playing tennis since they were just barely old enough to carry their own ice cream money, this University of Alabama tennis player was prodded into the sport at age 14 by his mother. It was another year before he played in a tournament. But by his freshman year in college, Brandon was the second-ranked player in the talent-rich South.

Most everything Brandon touches seems to turn into gold. He is a natural at most any sport. In the classroom, his prowess allowed him, with a 3.75 GPA in honors classes, to skip his senior year and graduate early from East Mecklinburg High in Charlotte, North Carolina. He spent the year playing juniors tennis instead and landed a collegiate scholarship at Alabama, that year a top 15 ranked and national championships field-bound team.

Name a sport, and Brandon has probably competed in it. And starred in it. Football, baseball, wrestling, soccer, swimming and, of course, tennis. His Little League baseball team won the Ohio all-star championship. Brandon was the most valuable player.

"I think I have a lot of natural ability," admits Brandon when coaxed. "But I'm also willing to work at it a little harder than most people. It's not so much the competitiveness of it all—I just like the feeling you get from doing something you like. It's a lot of fun. Neither of my parents pushed me real hard in sports.

They both wanted me to do well in school. Both of them were teachers for a while. My mom is still teaching."

His first love was swimming, a sport he took up at an early age. His coach, back in Cleveland where the Brandons were living then, took it slow with Brandon and his teammates, instilling in them the basics of swimming. Less than two years later, Brandon was churning up the water. He says he doesn't know the total number, but he easily has 100 first place ribbons and at least as many second place ribbons he won while he was competing.

But in 1985, his family moved to Charlotte. Brandon joined the swim club there and was impressed with the team's strength.

"It was impressive being around champions," said Brandon whose teammates held state records and went on to collegiate careers. "All my life, I've been lucky. I've played a lot of sports, and I've had a knack for being on successful teams. And that helped me a lot as far as forming my work ethic. My parents have been a big influence with that, too."

Brandon had dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer, but, soon after he moved to Charlotte, the dream faded.

"It was definitely a big thing I wanted. I wanted to swim in the Olympics. But circumstances caused me to fall a little short here and there, and I got off on a different track," said Brandon whose coach retired when he was 13, causing the club to disband. "Being a swimmer is very expensive. People don't realize how much it costs. There are the little things like goggles and swim trunks and travel. But to belong to a swim club is expensive. And at the time, my parents didn't have the money to switch over to one of the other swim clubs in Charlotte. It was something that I didn't like. And I was disappointed. I wasn't peaking, but I was getting there. I was really starting to swim strongly and I felt good about the way I was progressing. It took me by shock a bit at first. But I was in junior high, and after a while, I started seeing some trade-offs. With swimming, I never had afternoons off, so I couldn't play any other sports. And then there were girls. I guess stopping came at a time where the transition wasn't as tough."

And that's where tennis came into the picture. Brandon's mother, Regina, was playing tennis at a city park one afternoon and took notice of a kids tournament being played. Fascinated, she inquired if she could involve her son in

some lessons.

"I was like, 'Oh, Mom. Why do I have to do this?' I knew all the guys at school would be saying, 'Tennis? My gosh, you've got to be kidding.' I wasn't all that high on the idea of playing tennis. I thought it was a good sport and I liked watching people like McEnroe. But I wasn't sure I wanted to play. That concept of McEnroe and Borg was always a motivator, and it made me work harder. It motivated me."

Ever the competitor, Brandon was also pushed by his younger teammates. Because he was just starting out at 14, he was getting drilled by kids 11 and 12 years old.

"I really didn't know what I was doing. But they'd beat me and they would laugh. I really used to hate that. That'll make you work harder if nothing else."

"Tennis didn't take that long to pick up, but it's a different sport. It's just you out there. My coach had enough foresight to see that I wasn't ready for the winning and losing and pressure of juniors tennis, so he slowed it down for me. He made me wait almost a year before I played in my first tournament, and he only let me play in one that summer."

The late start allowed Brandon to skip over the rough spots of junior tennis, and get right into the thick of things. One year after he started playing, he was ranked Number 55 in the nation in the 16s. He competed in major tournaments like the USTA Nationals, the International Hardcourt Championships and others. He was a semifinalist at the 1990 Interscholastic Championship, a major national event.

Brandon got national exposure at these events, but still, because of his late start, collegiate coaches weren't all familiar with him. That's one of the reasons Brandon graduated a year early, even though it meant going to school from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He wanted to use what would have been his senior year to play tournaments and thank his parents for their years of support by letting tennis earn him a college scholarship. And it worked. Alabama Coach John Kreis snatched him up immediately. And the acquisition has been a successful one for both Brandon and Alabama.

"I had taken one recruiting trip before I went to Alabama, and I really didn't like it. I felt like an outsider. But when I came to Alabama, it was a totally different story. Everybody was really laid back. I was walking across the Quad with Coach, and somebody asked me how to get to a class. I thought, 'Wow, they're asking

me?.' The total atmosphere was so much warmer. People smiled at you and said 'Hi.' That makes a big difference, when you could be comfortable, especially on a recruiting trip."

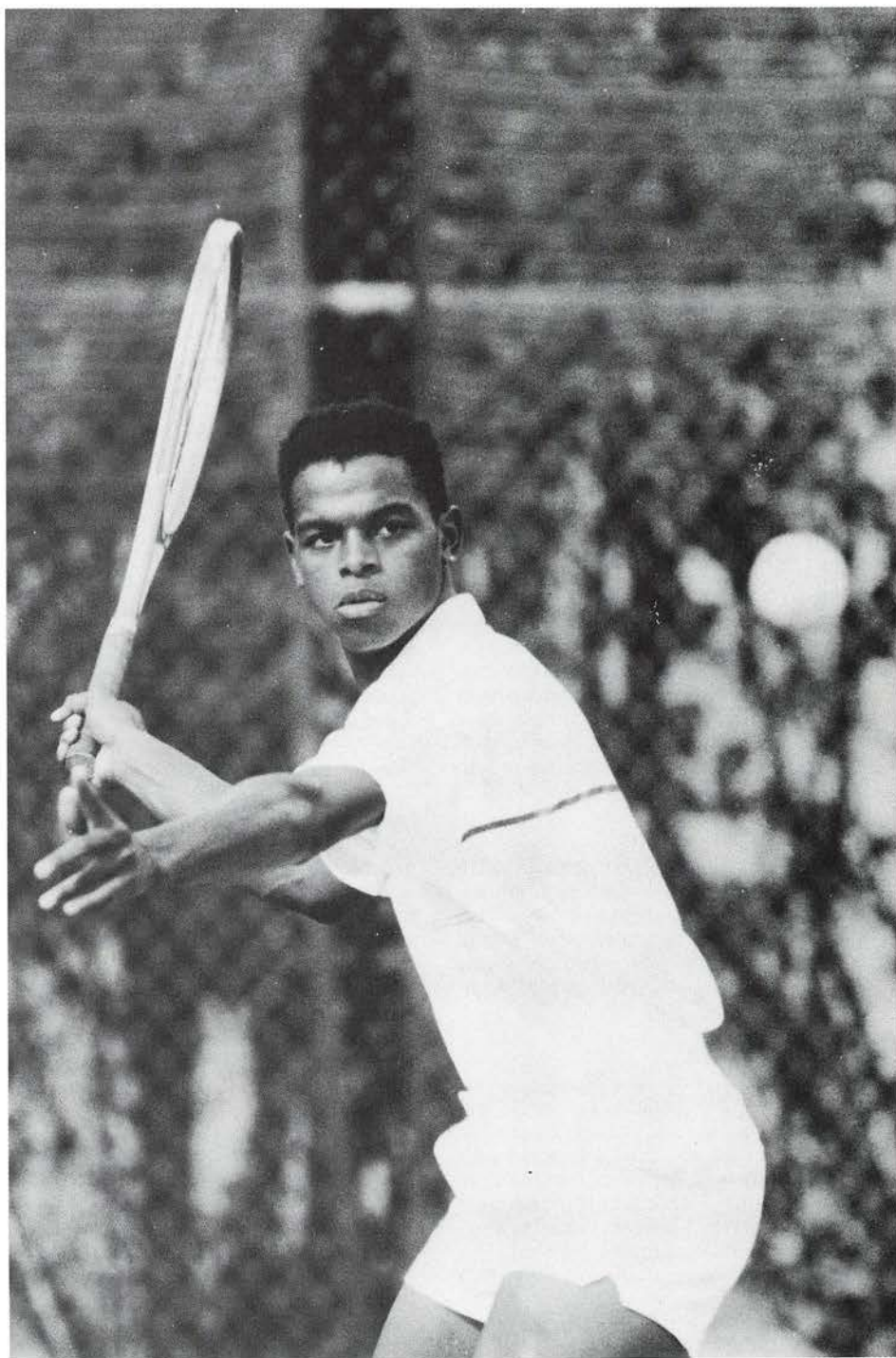
Right away, Kreis pushed together Brandon and Knoxville native Matt Turner who had also signed with Alabama. The two went through orientation together, and Kreis paired them as roommates. This year they have the distinction of being Alabama's nationally ranked singles players as both broke into the Volvo Tennis/Collegiate Rankings this season.

"I think Matt is a different kind of person. He's very laid back. He had one of the most unbelievable junior careers that anyone could have. He won national championships in the 12s and 14s, played on the US national team, traveled a lot. A lot of that stuff is old hat for him. But a lot of this stuff is new for me. So he gives me a little insight to the little pitfalls here and there. He pushes me when he sees me make little sidetracks. I do the same for him because I've had a different background in sports than he's had because I've been involved in so many sports. Matt's only been involved in tennis. I think a lot of times we get in different kinds of ruts, and we help each other out."

Brandon started his Alabama career with a 23-14 record last season. This season he's batted down two top 20 ranked players among a slew of other ranked opponents.

"I think I was really one-sided when I came here. I dabbled a little bit in the baseline game, but now I think it's a much more rounded out game—serve and volley, staying back if you need it. I can stay out there a long time with somebody who is willing to hit a lot of balls. You've got to be able to do that. There are so many different styles of play in college that it makes you adjust your game every time you go out on the court. In the juniors you pretty much see the same people all the time. So you get grooved into their styles of play. In college, every match you're playing somebody different with a different style of play. There is no average player. You're playing Europeans, players from all over. The different styles of play make you mature on the court. That's what has really helped my game.

"It's big when I beat somebody highly ranked. I try not to let winning a big match get to me. I work extra hard at that because I've seen people from all kinds of sports let a big win go to their head or they let that one win be a culmination. I don't ever want to be that way. After I win a big match it doesn't hit me



Cecil Brandon, Bama's 1992 captain, has done an excellent job of reaching his goals in the classroom and on the playing fields. He has had individual success with the Alabama tennis team, but hopes to have more team success in the future—a national title.

University of Alabama Photo

until that night. Like when we played Georgia and lost 5-4. That really got to me because we all wanted to win that one really bad. That night when I was eating dinner, a friend kept mentioning what a really big win I'd had. And it just hit me then, 'Gee, that was a big win, wasn't it?' I just want to make sure I

never fall into the trap of getting out of control," said Brandon. "My career so far isn't where I want it all the time. So far, I've had enough successes to make this experience worth the work it took to get here. But I have a long way to go. I want to win a national championship before we get out of here."

BAMA SCORECARD

Academic Update

Although there will be nothing official until final spring semester grades are in and standardized test scores received (possibly as late as July), an informal survey indicates Alabama still has some five football signees who are not yet eligible. They include linebacker Darrell Blackburn of Huntsville Butler, defensive lineman Kendrick Burton of Hartselle, wide receiver Toderick Malone of Etowah of Attalla, defensive back/quarterback Renardo McCoy of Hazlewood, and fullback Tim Watts of Selma Southside.

Bryant Scholars

Golfer Dicky Pride of Tuscaloosa and gymnast Katherine Kelleher of Cincinnati were winners this year of the Paul W. Bryant Scholar-Athlete awards, which are sponsored by the Tuscaloosa Chapter of the Alabama Alumni Association.

Other male nominees were baseball's Jeff Laubenthal, swimmer Jamie Myers, trackman Eduardo Nava, basketball player Darby Rich, football player George Wilson, and tennis player Rick Witsken. Other female nominees were swimmer Susan Bartholomew, basketball player Stacy Franklin, track performer Hanna Gylfadottir, volleyball player Kristye Hall, golfer Liza LaBelle, and tennis player Mindy Leach.

SEC Nominees

Alabama's nominees for Southeastern Conference Athletes of the Year are graduating seniors, nose tackle Robert Stewart from football and Katherine Kelleher from gymnastics. Winners of those titles will be announced at the SEC spring meeting in June.

Pearman Aboard

As expected, Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings selected Danny Pearman as an assistant coach to replace Mike Solari, who accepted a position with the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League. Pearman, who had been a graduate assistant for two years, worked with the offensive tackles through the spring and will be in charge of that position.

Pearman is a 1987 graduate of Clemson. He spent two years as a graduate assistant at Clemson under former Tide star Danny Ford before coming to Alabama. He played tight end under current Tide Assistant Coach Woody McCorvey. He is a native of Greenwood, South Carolina. He was a three-year letterman at Clemson, played on two Atlantic Coast Conference championship teams, and was named Strength Team All-America in 1987. He also earned three baseball letters.

Basketball Poll

Each year in conjunction with the

Southeastern Conference Basketball Tournament, the *Anniston Star* conducts its SEC Hoops Poll, with beat writers of each of the SEC schools participating. This has frequently been a controversial poll, touching on the out-of-the-ordinary. Here are some of the results of this year's poll, which was considered non-controversial:

Best Assistant Coach—David Hobbs; Best Defender—Latrell Sprewell; Best Duel—Arkansas' Todd Day vs. Sprewell; Surprise Player—Sprewell; Most Underrated—Sprewell; Best Coaching Matchup—Wimp Sanderson vs. Kentucky's Rick Pitino.

Basketball All-Stars

Alabama signees Wade Kaiser of Vestavia Hills and Yolanda Watkins and Shondra Fuller, both of Decatur, have been selected for the Alabama boys' and girls' all-star basketball teams that will play the Mississippi all-stars at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, June 13.

It had earlier been announced that 11 Alabama football signees had been selected for the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game to be played June 19 at Ladd Stadium in Mobile.

Basketball Prospects

Over the years the Alabama basketball program has been built primarily on the play of home-grown players. However, in recent years Tide recruiting has gone further afield to find players. As an example, last year's starting five included only two Alabamians, Cedric Moore and Robert Horry.

This year's state high school tournaments, where top underclassmen often surface, were not notable for apparent future prospects. Nevertheless, the recruiting search starts in the Alabama high schools. Here is a look at some upcoming

senior basketball players who will show up on various prospect lists for next season's recruiting:

Anthony Durham, 6-6 swing player at Montgomery Jeff Davis; Rodney Griggs, 6-8 center at Hueytown; Greg Grimsley, 6-5 wingman at Abbeville; Cole Indestad, 6-8 forward at Birmingham Berry; Chad Jones, 6-3 guard at Vestavia Hills; Jeremy Little, 6-6 forward at Aliceville; Arthur Minter, 6-1 point guard at Birmingham Parker; John Oliver, 6-5 wing guard at Francis Marion; Howard Pride, 6-0 guard at Huntsville Butler; Donny Rutledge, 6-6 center at Bibb County; Gregory Tolbert, 6-8 center at Francis Marion; Franklin Williams, 6-6 swing player at Headland; and Norvie Womack, 6-7 forward at Mobile LeFlore.

Basketball Awards

Senior captain Robert Horry was named Alabama's most valuable player at the Tuscaloosa Tipoff Club's post-season banquet for the men's basketball team. Other award winners were senior Latrell Sprewell (Guy Lee Turner Memorial Defensive Award), walk-on Jeff Lovell (Hustle Award), and senior Darby Rich (Hayden Riley Scholastic Award, the third straight year Rich has taken the honor).

The women's awards banquet saw three senior captains among five players honored. Linda Burgess was honored for leading the team in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage. Stacey Franklin had the highest grade point average and won the "Hard Hat" award, given to the most consistent player. And Amy Lannom was honored as the player with the highest three-point field goal percentage and won the "Shelly Pyles Hustle Award" for the second time. Freshman Niesa Johnson received awards for most assists and most steals. Johnson also received an award for being named the national collegiate Freshman of the Year. Sophomore Betsy Harris was honored for the highest free throw percentage and also received the inaugural "Sixth Man" (man?) award.

ASWA Honorees

Alabama did not fare very well in selections of athletes of the year by the Alabama Sports Writers Association. The athletes, who will be honored at the ASWA annual convention June 14 at Twin Pines Conference Center in Shelby County, include only one with Crimson Tide connections. Alabama women's basketball signee Yolanda Watkins of Decatur is the state's Miss Basketball. Darryl Wilson of South Lamar edged Tide signee Wade Kaiser for Mr. Basketball. Mr. Football is Robert Davis of Homewood, who picked LSU over Bama.

Alabama's nominee for amateur athlete of the year, football nose tackle Robert Stewart, was beaten out by Tim VanEgmond of Jacksonville State, who

Moving? Let Us Know

We are approaching the time of year most common to changes of address. If you are changing addresses, PLEASE remember to send notice of that change to us. For best results, send us an old address label from your magazine with a note of your new address and when you will be moving.

Ordinarily, magazines are not forwarded by the postal service.

Send your notice to 'BAMA, P.O. Box 6104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6104.

(Incidentally, anyone not currently receiving his 'BAMA with a ZIP+4 number should also get that to us. If you don't know your final four numbers, call your local postmaster. Everyone has a 9-digit ZIP code.)

The next 'BAMA will be the August issue, mailed in late July.

was also the small college athlete of the year. Frank Thomas, who played football and baseball at Auburn and now plays for the Chicago White Sox, edged former Alabama football star Cornelius Bennett for professional athlete of the year. And the junior college athlete of the year is former Faulkner State basketball player Leonard White, who signed with Southern University over Alabama.

Gymnasts Third

The Alabama gymnastics team, seeded sixth going into the NCAA championships, had a strong meet to finish third, the Tide's eighth straight year to finish in the nation's top four. Utah and Georgia, the nation's one-two ranked teams, finished in that order. In individual competition, junior Dana Dobransky tied for the national championships on beam with a 9.9. Dee Dee Foster was third and Sheryl Dundas sixth, all earning All-America honors. Foster was also second on floor and third on bars and finished third in all-around competition. The junior has now been named an All-America in 13 events, a national record. (Former Tider Penney Hauschild shares the old record of 10 All-America citations.)

Title Game On ABC

ABC will televise the Southeastern Conference football championship game through 1985. The inaugural game will be at 2:30 p.m. CST Saturday, December 5, at Birmingham's Legion Field. The champions of the East and West divisions will meet for the title and the right to represent the conference in the Sugar Bowl. ABC also telecasts the Sugar Bowl and the Florida Citrus Bowl, which will feature the SEC runner-up.

Under an amendment approved by the NCAA, there will be a special overtime if the SEC championship game is tied at the end of regulation play.

Volleyball Awards

Freshman Marta Bickert won the "Hammer Award," given to the team's best offensive player, and the "Machine Award," given to the best passer and defensive player, at the Alabama Volleyball Awards Banquet. Junior Jennifer Miller earned the Leadership Award, while junior Andrea Miller was presented the "Rock Award," given to the toughest player. The Millers were also named as co-captains for the upcoming season. Freshman Julie Esposito earned the "Spring Fever Award" for the best work in the off-season program. Freshman Mavis Reed earned the "Roof Award," given to the best blocker. Junior Kristye Hall won the Academic Award, the only honor not voted by the team.

Swimming Awards

This year's Alabama swimming and diving team awards included: For the women, Most Valuable Performer -Jennifer Mahaney; Coaches' Award-Katherine Rhodes and Jill Tappen; Most Inspirational Performance-the medley relay team of Kym Hucal, Katherine Rhodes, Georgia

Sewell and Michelle Harris for its swin against Tennessee; Academic-Susan Bartholomew; and 1992-93 Captains-Jennifer Mahaney and Stacy Gillies. For the men, Most Valuable Performer-Travis Myers; Coaches' Award-David Strassburg; Most Inspirational Performance-diving team of Mike Tamberino, Ken Vincens and Rick Richmond for the Auburn meet; Academic-Juan Lopez; and 1992-93 Captain-Alex Hermeto.

Good Jump

Alabama long jumper Brian Thomas won the long jump at the prestigious Penn Relays with a leap of 26-2 $\frac{1}{2}$, joining Carl Lewis as one of only three men to crack the 26-foot barrier at Franklin Field. The Tide women's 4x800 relay team set a school record in winning its event in 8:25.31. Members of the team are Celeste Jenkins, Marie Ohlund, Kristen Seabury and Vicky Lynch. Anna Skoog won the high jump at 5-11.

In an earlier meet Bama shot putter Hanna Gylfadottir set not only set an Alabama record, but also an Icelandic national record, with a toss of 51-8 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Bad Break

Alabama sophomore sprinter Samuel Boateng, who was SEC runnerup in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes last year, sustained a broken arm in a meet at Auburn this year. Just as he crossed the finish line he tripped up with another competitor and the fall broke his arm in two places. He may miss the remainder of the season.

Press Guides

The 1992 Alabama Football Media Guide will be a special one, befitting the "Century of Champions" celebration of Crimson Tide football. In addition to the normal information on players, coaches, opponents and a wealth of statistical information, this year's edition will also have special sections on the history of the Crimson Tide and the men who have made 100 years of Alabama football.

The football press guide will be available for mailing in early August. This year's guide is \$12 and may be ordered by writing Football Media Guide, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 with checks payable to The University of Alabama.

Basketball (\$8), baseball (\$6) and gymnastics (\$5) guides are also available from the same address and will be mailed approximately one month before the start of the respective seasons.

Hall Of Famer

The second class of the Montgomery Area Hall of Fame included former Alabama guard and later assistant coach, Jimmy Sharpe. Sharpe played his high school football at Sidney Lanier in Montgomery. Featured speaker at the April 16 ceremony was former Crimson Tide quarterback Bart Starr, a member of the first Hall of Fame. Starr is also an alumnus of Sidney Lanier.

Sports Camps

Summertime is camp time and for a number of years that has meant sports camps for many youngsters. The University of Alabama offers virtually every sports camp for boys and girls who have not yet begun their senior year of high school. Alabama coaches conduct the camps. Here is a brief look at camps offered at The University and telephone number for more information:

Football-June 7-10, skill and line camps for grades 7-12; June 10-13, skill and line camps for grades 7-12 and junior camp for grades 2-6. \$185. (205) 348-3600.

Baseball-July 8-11, pitchers and catchers, \$200, and July 12-16, all positions, \$235. (205) 348-6161.

Boys' Basketball-June 21-25 and July 5-9, \$250. (205) 348-6161.

Girls' Basketball-June 14-18. \$230. (205) 348-6161.

Girls' Volleyball-July 19-23, individual, \$230. July 23-26, specialty, \$210. July 26-30, team, \$230. (205) 348-3829. July 26-30, team, \$230. (205) 348-3829.

Boys' and Girls' Swimming-May 31-June 5, June 7-12, June 14-19, July 5-10, July 12-17, \$310. (205) 348-3914.

Boys' and Girls' Tennis-June 21-26, June 28-July 3, July 5-10, July 12-17, \$320. (205) 348-3686.

Boys' and Girls' Golf-June 7-11, \$425, Elite June 7-13, \$525. (205) 348-3692.

Gymnastics-June 14-19 and June 21-26, \$300, and June 28-July 1, \$185. (205) 348-4578.

Alumni Gatherings

The Morgan County Chapter of the University of Alabama Alumni Association, will have an all-day event June 6 at the Point Mallard Sports Complex. Activities begin at 10 a.m., a golf tournament is scheduled in the afternoon, and following a barbecue dinner in the evening Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram will address the group. For more information contact Steve Smith at (205) 350-2491 in Decatur.

A less illustrious speaker will address the Barbour County Alumni Chapter's spring banquet at 6 p.m. May 5 at Eufaula Country Club. **BAMA** Editor Kirk McNair will address the group. For more information contact Bill Payne at (205) 687-5255 in Eufaula.

Academic All-SEC

Some Academic All-SEC performers have been announced. Bama had seven in gymnastics-Gina Basile, Dana Dobransky, Sheryl Dundas, Katherine Kelleher, Shea McFall, Kara Stilp and Marti Watson. In women's tennis the honorees are Mindy Leach, Jane Phillips and Titia Wilmink. And in men's tennis, Cecil Brandon and Rick Witsken earned the honor.

NCAA Publications

The NCAA produces over 50 publications relating to college athletics. For information on available publications write NCAA Publishing, P.O. Box 7347, Overland Park, KS 66207.

1992 Alabama Spring Sports Results

Baseball

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|------|
| 13 | Morehead State | 2 |
| 10 | Morehead State | 1 |
| 8 | Alcorn State | 4 |
| 25 | Alcorn State | 4 |
| 4 | Louisville | 2 |
| 11 | Louisville | 9 |
| 13 | Louisville | 6 |
| 6 | Alabama-Birmingham | 1 |
| 4 | @ Samford | 5 |
| 2 | Northeastern Illinois | 1 |
| 6 | Northeastern Illinois | 5 |
| 7 | Northeastern Illinois | 9 |
| 18 | Georgia State | 3 |
| 16 | Georgia State | 4 |
| 12 | Northern Illinois | 1 |
| 7 | Middle Tennessee | 9 |
| 15 | Middle Tennessee | 1 |
| 18 | Siena College | 0 |
| 9 | Siena College | 7 |
| 4 | @ Kentucky | 6 |
| 5 | @ Kentucky | 6 |
| 5 | @ Kentucky | 6 |
| 11 | Murray State | 2 |
| 5 | Murray State | 1 |
| 7 | Auburn @ Montgomery | 1 |
| 6 | Vanderbilt | 5 |
| 3 | Vanderbilt | 4 |
| 16 | Vanderbilt (10 innings) | 19 |
| 0 | Boston Red Sox (exh.) | 10 |
| 11 | @ Tampa (11 innings) | 10 |
| 4 | @ Georgia | 16 |
| 5 | @ Georgia | 2 |
| 0 | @ Georgia | 4 |
| 5 | Auburn @ Dothan | 7 |
| 11 | Mississippi State (14 innings) | 10 |
| 6 | Mississippi State | 8 |
| 2 | Mississippi State | 15 |
| 10 | Tennessee Tech | 4 |
| 3 | Tennessee Tech | 2 |
| 1 | @ Mississippi | 6 |
| 6 | @ Mississippi | 2 |
| 2 | @ Mississippi | 7 |
| 5 | Samford | 9 |
| 6 | @ Alabama-Birmingham | 0 |
| 0 | LSU | 10 |
| 7 | LSU (8 innings) | 8 |
| 7 | LSU | 5 |
| April 28 | Western Kentucky | 7:00 |
| April 29 | West Florida | 7:00 |
| May 2 | @ Arkansas (2) | 4:00 |
| May 3 | @ Arkansas | 1:00 |
| May 6 | @ Middle Tennessee | 5:00 |
| May 9 | Auburn (2) | 4:00 |
| May 10 | Auburn | 2:00 |
| May 14- | SEC Tournament | |
| May 17 | @ Superdome, New Orleans | |

(All times central)

Men's Tennis

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| 4 | @ Tennessee Invitational | 5 |
| 3 | Kansas | 6 |
| | Arizona State | |
| | American Airlines Invitational @ Chicago | |
| 7 | Wisconsin | 2 |
| 6 | Northwestern | 3 |
| 0 | @ Arkansas | 6 |
| 5 | Southwestern Louisiana | 1 |
| 7 | Vanderbilt | 2 |
| 5 | South Carolina | 4 |
| 5 | East Tennessee State | 1 |
| 4 | Georgia | 5 |
| 0 | Kentucky | 6 |
| 2 | Blue-Gray Invitational | |
| 4 | Drake | 4 |
| | South Florida | 5 |
| 8 | @ Tulane | 1 |
| 1 | @ LSU | 5 |
| 6 | @ Tennessee | 0 |
| 4 | @ Ole Miss | 5 |
| 4 | Florida | 5 |
| 4 | @ Mississippi State | 5 |
| 4 | @ Auburn | 5 |
| | SEC Championships | |
| 5 | South Carolina | 1 |
| 1 | Georgia | 5 |
| May 15- | NCAA Team Championships | |
| May 24 | @ Athens, Ga. | |
| May 20- | NCAA Individual Championships | |
| May 24 | @ Athens, Ga. | |

(All times central)

Women's Tennis

| | | |
|--------|----------------------------|---|
| 4 | Georgia | 5 |
| 6 | @ Wisconsin | 3 |
| 6 | FSU @ Madison, Wisc. | 0 |
| 5 | @ South Carolina | 4 |
| | @ Arkansas Invitational | |
| 6 | Arkansas | 3 |
| 4 | Kansas | 5 |
| 5 | SMU | 2 |
| | @ Mississippi State | 6 |
| 1 | @ Tennessee | 6 |
| 3 | LSU | 3 |
| | Commodore Cup @ Tuscaloosa | |
| 6 | Michigan | 3 |
| 7 | Southeast Louisiana | 0 |
| 5 | South Alabama | 1 |
| | @ Vanderbilt | 3 |
| 1 | @ Miami | 5 |
| 7 | @ South Florida | 2 |
| 0 | @ Florida | 6 |
| 4 | Ole Miss | 5 |
| 4 | Auburn | 5 |
| 7 | Houston | 1 |
| 7 | Kentucky | 2 |
| | SEC Championships | |
| 5 | Auburn | 1 |
| 0 | Georgia | 5 |
| May 8- | NCAA Championships All Day | |
| May 16 | Palo Alto, Calif. | |

(All times central)

Men's Golf

| | | |
|-------------------|---|----|
| Feb. 6-9 | Barnett Bank Intercollegiate | |
| | @ Gainesville, Florida, 4th of 15 teams | |
| Feb. 29- | Miami Lakes National Collegiate | |
| March 1 | @ Miami, Florida (7th of 18 teams) | |
| March 18-21 | Southeastern Intercollegiate | |
| | @ Montgomery (1st of 18 teams) | |
| April 2-6 | Augusta College Invitational | |
| | @ Augusta, Georgia (7th of 18 teams) | |
| April 15-19 | Eagle Invitational | |
| | @ Savannah, Georgia (4th of 12 teams) | |
| April 22-26 | Hitchcock Invitational | |
| | @ Auburn P | 30 |
| 30 | | |
| (2nd of 12 teams) | | |
| May 10-12 | SEC Championships | |
| | @ Baton Rouge | |
| TBA | NCAA East Regional | |
| TBA | NCAA Championships | |
| | @ Albuquerque, New Mexico | |

Men's Track

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| March 20-21 | Florida State Relays | |
| | @ Tallahassee | |
| March 27-29 | Alabama Relays | |
| April 11 | Arkansas Invitational | |
| | @ Hot Springs | |
| April 18 | SEC Five-Way @ Auburn (3rd) | |
| April 23-25 | Penn Relays @ Philadelphia | |
| May 2 | Alabama Open | |
| May 14-17 | SEC Championships | |
| | @ Starkville | |
| May 23 | George C. Griffen @ Atlanta | |
| June 3-6 | NCAA Championships | |
| | @ Austin, Texas | |
| June 19-28 | U.S. Olympic Trials | |
| | @ New Orleans | |

Women's Golf

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| March 1-3 | C. C. of Alabama Invitational | |
| | @ Eufaula (1st of 10 teams) | |
| March 20-22 | LSU Fairwood @ Baton Rouge | |
| | (4th of 18 teams) | |
| April 3-5 | SMU Mustang @ Dallas | |
| | (11th of 12 teams) | |
| April 17-19 | Women's Southern Intercollegiate | |
| | @ Athens, Georgia (6th of 17 teams) | |
| April 24-26 | South Alabama Invitational | |
| | @ Gulf Shores (3rd of 13 teams) | |
| May 11-13 | SEC Championships | |
| | @ Baton Rouge | |

Women's Track

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|
| March 20-21 | Florida State Relays | |
| | @ Tallahassee | |
| March 27-29 | Alabama Relays | |
| April 11 | Arkansas Invitational | |
| | @ Hot Springs | |
| April 18 | SEC Five-Way @ Auburn (1st) | |
| April 23-25 | Penn Relays @ Philadelphia | |
| May 2 | Alabama Open | |
| May 14-17 | SEC Championships | |
| | @ Starkville | |
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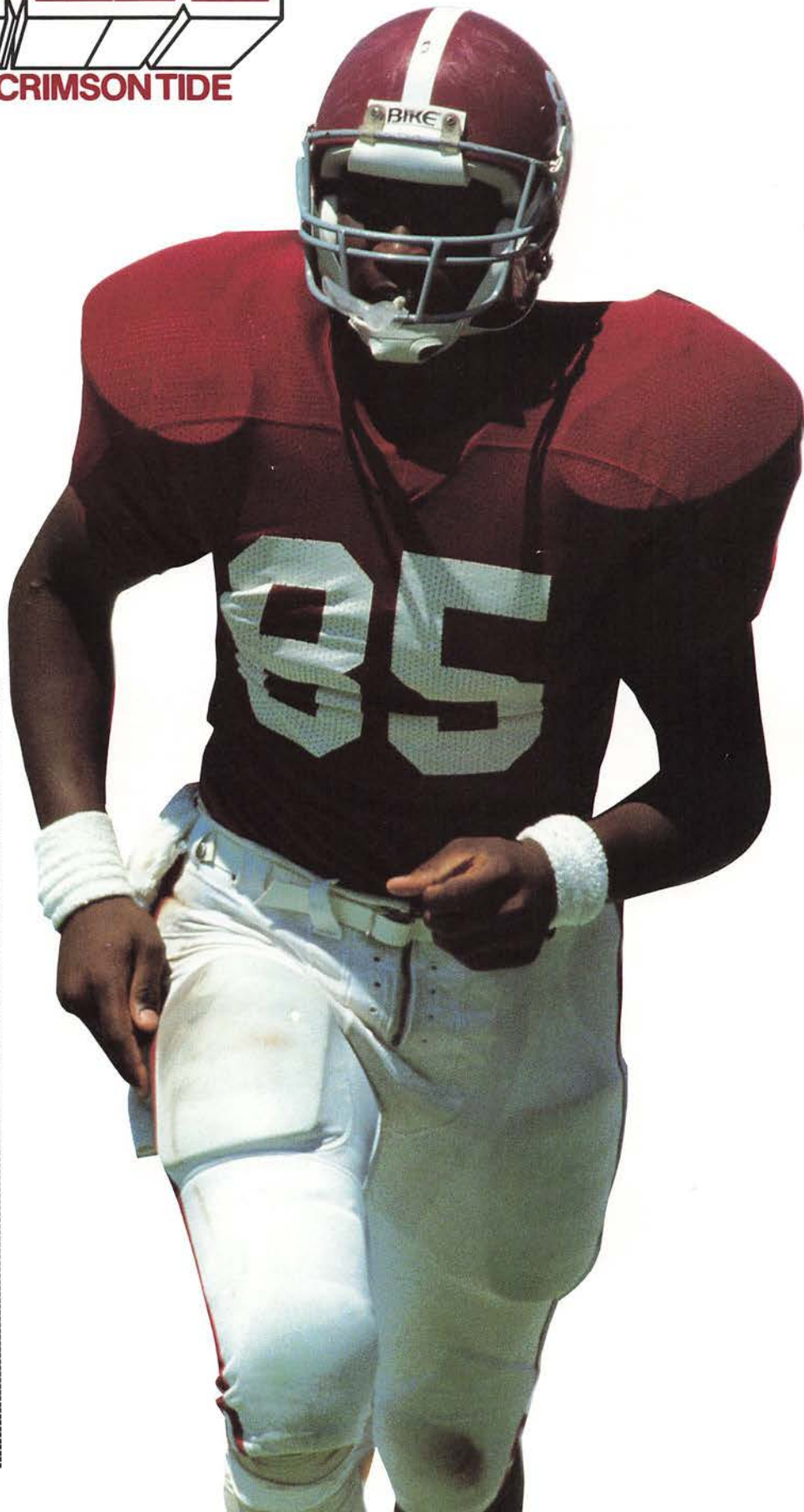
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